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Saipan Tribune

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OPA cites 40% increase in delinquent audit recommendations. **PAGE 2**

Villagomez boat in 'poor condition.' **PAGE 3**

CNMI federalization transition plan issued

Administration urges DHS to waive travel restrictions

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The Fitial administration has issued a 46-page CNMI protocol addressing key concerns related to the transition to federal immigration on Nov. 28, including the loss of government jobs, foreign labor, and adjudication of labor cases.

Fitial

See FEDERALIZATION on Page 4

DHS *set to offer 'solution' to visa waiver program woes*

As Fitial optimistic on Russia, China inclusion

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Department of Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano told Gov. Benigno R. Fitial that "a possible solution for discussion" with the CNMI and Guam on the joint visa waiver program may be ready by this week or early next week.

Fitial, in a statement yesterday, said he is optimistic that the CNMI will be granted reasonable access to Russian and Chinese tourists under the visa waiver program following his meeting with Napolitano on Tuesday in Washington, D.C.

Napolitano

The governor described the meeting as "positive," having as-

See DHS on Page 4

ESGR WEEK

House Speaker Arnold I. Palacios (R-Saipan) addresses members of the House while House clerk Evelyn Fleming and House counsel Joe San Nicolas look on during a session yesterday afternoon, a few hours after acting Gov. Eloy S. Inos signed a proclamation declaring Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Week.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Probe on coercion, intimidation at CHC

Victims, kin testify at House panel public hearing on health

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

House Speaker Arnold I. Palacios yesterday said the House will be looking into allegations that Commonwealth Health Center employees are threatened with job loss if they attend legislative public hearing on health issues, including the one held on Tuesday night in the Garapan Elementary School cafeteria.

"This is a disturbing information," Palacios (R-Saipan) said.

While some 40 community members,

See PROBE on Page 4

Ex-NMI teacher gets 10 years in jail in Cambodia for sexual abuse of minor

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Michael J. Dodd, a former teacher at an elementary school here on Saipan, was convicted last month in Cambodia for sexual abuse of a minor girl.

Dodd was sentenced to 10 years in jail in the CNMI in 2002 for molesting several children but was given parole after five years.

According to newspapers from

See TEACHER on Page 4

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OPINION METER

This week's poll:
Do you support debt forgiveness for CNMI scholars who fail to pay back the money awarded them for their college education?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

PANDEMIC ALERT STATUS

PHASE 6

As of September 23, 2009

Phase 6: The pandemic phase, is an indication that a global pandemic is underway.

For more information about the H1N1 flu, contact DPH at 236-8797, Monday to Friday, from 8am to 5pm, 234-8950 during after hours, e-mail cnmipheoc@gmail.com, or visit www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/.

Source: CNMI Department of Public Health, World Health Organization

INSIDE

Dust Down Under

A pall of red dust blown in from the Outback clogged the skies over Sydney on Wednesday, diverting international flights, disrupting ferries and prompting a spike in emergency calls from people suffering breathing difficulties.

Asia...Page 16

The Beatles Revival

Nearly 40 years after breaking up, The Beatles are still breaking records for album sales.

Lufe & Stylee...Page 21

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Local

OPA cites 40% increase in delinquent audit recommendations

$6.3M in improperly spent public fund potentially recoverable

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The Office of the Public Auditor reported a 40-percent increase in the number of delinquent audit recommendations, or those that have been outstanding for at least 180 days.

Public Auditor Mike Pai, in a Sept. 21 report on the CNMI agencies' implementation of audit recommendations as of Dec. 31, 2008, said from only 12 in 2007, the number of delinquent audit recommendations involving nine government agencies went up to 42 in 2008.

The agencies with delinquent audit recommendations include the Office of the Attorney General, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Commonwealth Utilities Corp., Department of Finance, Department of Public Lands, Department of Public Safety, Marianas Visitors Authority, Northern Marianas College, and the Public School System.

OPA also identified $6.4 million in improperly spent taxpayers' money that is potentially recoverable.

Of this amount, $2.6 million was from audit recommendations in 13 audit reports referred to the Office of the Attorney General as of Dec. 31, 2008 for legal action to recover monies improperly expended.

The OAG, however, did not provide OPA an update on these referral cases during OPA's follow-up process. Therefore, the status of these referrals remains unchanged from the previous report as of June 30, 2008.

OPA also identified potential recoveries of some $3.7 million in eight audit reports addressed to different agencies.

During its semi-annual follow up process for the period July 1, 2008 through Dec. 31, 2008, OPA has not received any update on the status of recovery of funds from the responsible agencies.

"Therefore, approximately $3.7 million remains potentially recoverable from the previous report of June 30, 2008," said OPA.

OPA tracked 49 audit recommendations as of Dec. 31. 2008. Of the 49, one was closed and 48 remained either open or resolved. But of this number, 42 were considered delinquent.

OPA also included in its audit recommendation tracking report 146 recommendations from 12 recent audit reports issued by private accounting firms.

Another daughter testifies against Calvo

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Another daughter of businessman Patrick Mendiola Calvo yesterday testified against him in his ongoing jury trial in the Superior Court for sexual abuse of a minor.

As this developed, the prosecution rested the government's case. Superior Court Presiding Judge Robert Naraja continued the trial today, Thursday, at 10am.

The 20-year-old daughter flew from Portland just to testify for the government. *Saipan Tribune* opted to withhold her identity and some details of her testimony.

The daughter basically recounted how she had learned about the sexual molestation of the victim through a phone call from her other sister.

The daughter was in Portland at the time.

The daughter was visibly seen trying to hold back tears as she answered questions during examinations by assistant attorney general Brian Gallagher and Calvo's counsel, G. Anthony Long.

As soon as she stepped outside the courtroom after her testimony, she broke into tears as her maternal grandmother hugged her.

On Friday, the other daughter of Calvo, who came from Hawaii, also took the witness stand and testified against him. After her testimony, she and a family member cried as they tightly hugged each other outside the courtroom. Yesterday, the mother of the alleged victim completed her testimony. Detective Andrea Ozawa was the government's last witness.

Calvo is on trial for allegedly sexually abusing a 13-year-old girl on June 12, 2008.

The alleged victim testified on Tuesday. She seemed composed as she took the witness stand but was observed trying to hold back tears as she recounted the incident. She, however, burst into tears as soon as she stepped outside the courtroom and was hugged by a family member.

Lifoifoi reelected as CPA chairman

The Commonwealth Ports Authority board yesterday reelected chairman Jose Lifoifoi after its members expressed satisfaction on his performance and leadership.

Lifoifoi currently is the chairman of United Micronesia Development Association, Inc.

He also served as CPA chairman for four years until he quit in 2007. He was House Speaker of the 5th CNMI Legislature, having been elected to the House of Representatives three consecutive times before becoming House Speaker.

He also serves as the Republic of Palau's honorary consul general to the CNMI. ***(Moneth G. Deposa)***

360
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Greatly reduced prices on all alcoholic drinks!
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Join us and enjoy the Best Prime Rib on the Island!!!

Villagomez boat in 'poor condition'

US govt no longer interested in vessel

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The U.S. government has moved to dismiss its forfeiture complaint against a 31-foot boat owned by former lieutenant governor Timothy P. Villagomez after finding that the vessel was generally in "poor condition."

Assistant U.S. Attorney Eric O'Malley said the U.S. government believes that pursuing the forfeiture action against Villagomez's boat, *Dr. V*, will likely result in a net loss to the government, even should it prevail on the merits.

"For this reason, or plaintiff believes that the interests of justice are best served by dismissing the complaint and returning the *Dr. V* to the possession of Villagomez," said O'Malley in his declaration supporting the motion to dismiss the complaint.

On Aug. 6, 2009, the U.S. government filed a civil forfeiture against Dr. V, a 1994 Yamaha 31-foot vessel.

Two days later, the U.S. Marshal's Office took custody of the boat. The boat is currently held at Smiling Cove Marina.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Alex R. Munson issued the warrant that commanded the U.S. Marshal's Office to arrest the vessel.

Munson directed the U.S. Marshal's Office to use whatever means may be appropriate to protect and maintain the boat in their custody until further court's order.

Munson issued the warrant after the U.S. government filed the civil forfeiture complaint.

FBI special agent Joseph Auther in his affidavit stated that during the trial of Villagomez and co-defendants James A. Santos and Joaquina Santos, it was established through testimony and documentary evidence that Villagomez purchased the boat in 2006 for a price of between $45,000 and $60,000.

Auther said as declared by Villagomez, the money to buy the boat was received from James Santos and or his wife Joaquina Santos.

"There is reasonable belief that *Dr. V* constitutes, or was derived from, proceeds from the crimes of wire fraud and fraud relating to the program receiving federal funds," Auther said.

In response to the forfeiture action, Villagomez, through counsel Leilani V. Lujan, has asked the federal court to dismiss the forfeiture case and return the boat to him or his representative.

Lujan also requested the court that in the event that a forfeiture is granted, it should issue an order to compensate Villagomez for the value of his interest in the boat.

"Claimant (Villagomez) is an innocent owner of the subject property and is entitled to an order of compensation in the event of forfeiture," said Lujan in court papers.

In the government's motion to dismiss filed on Tuesday, O'Malley said the complaint was filed on the good faith belief that it constitutes proceeds of criminal activity, specifically from the scheme on which Villagomez was convicted by a jury on April 24, 2009.

O'Malley said that, on Aug. 10, 2009 the U.S. Marshal Service commissioned Oceaneer Enterprises Inc., a surveyor firm experienced in the field of assessing marine vessels, to assess the condition of the *Dr. V* and estimate its value should it be brought to auction.

"The resulting report determined that the *Dr. V* lacked maintenance and was generally in 'poor condition,'" he said.

The prosecutor said the report estimated that combined with the stagnant market for seagoing vessels in the area, the value of the *Dr. V* at auction would be substantially less than initially believed.

The report, O'Malley said, also recommended that "if the boat is guarded permanently, all possible proceeds would most likely be used to pay for guarding."

He added that subsequent discussions with the U.S. Marshal Service confirmed that in the agency's opinion, even a successful forfeiture would result in a net loss to the government.

Munson sentenced Villagomez to seven years and three months in prison for his role in the Rydlyme corruption scandal.

Joaquina Santos and James Santos were sentenced to six years and six months in prison each for their involvement in the scheme to defraud CUC and the United States.

The defendants appealed to the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals.

Villagomez was recently taken to the Federal Correctional Institution in Phoenix, Arizona to serve his jail term. FCI is a medium security facility for male offenders.

A check with the U.S. Bureau of Prisons yesterday indicated that Villagomez is now in the United States Penitentiary (USP) in Tucson, Arizona.

USP is a high security institution housing male inmates, with a satellite camp that houses minimum security male inmates.

USP Tucson is located in southern Arizona, 10 miles southeast of the city of Tucson, near Interstate 10 and Wilmot Road.

James Santos is now at the United States Penitentiary (USP)-Victorville in Alelanto, California, to serve his jail sentence. Joaquina A. Santos is listed as still on transit.

CUC schedules power interruption this afternoon

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. would like to inform the general public that a temporary power interruption is scheduled for today Sept. 24, from 3pm to 4pm.

Areas to be affected include:

■ Feeder 4: Entire Grid

Portions of Lower Base, Sadog Tasi, Capital Hill, Kagman and portions of Papago (Botanical Garden)

■ Feeder 7: Entire Grid

Lower Base industrial area north to Tanapag, Achugao, San Roque, As Matuis and Marpi

This interruption is required to allow the linemen to safely connect feeder 4 to Power Plant 1 and again have separate circuits for both feeders. Feeder 4 and 7 was consolidated last year to accommodate the Aggreko Power Plant connection.

CUC apologizes for any inconvenience this outage may impose on the community and it's customers and will continue to work diligently to minimize any future interruptions. ***(PR)***

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Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Rehabilitation Council - Statewide Independent Living Council
Joint Meeting

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC §9910, the public is advised that the State Rehabilitation Council & the Statewide Independent Living Council will hold their FY 09 Joint Council Meeting on **Friday, September 25, 2009 at the Azucena 1 & 2, Fiesta Resort Hotel from 9:00am-2:00pm.** Interested individuals are welcome to attend.

AGENDA

I. Welcome & Introduction

II. Review and Adoption of Agenda

III. Adoption of Previous Council Minutes
- Joint 09/25/08
- SRC 05/21/09
- SILC 09/04/09

IV. Reports
- SILC Chairman
- Committee Chairpersons
- SRC Chairman
- OVR Director
  - ➢ Monitoring Report
  - ➢ ARRA Funds
  - ➢ OVR Annual Report
  - ➢ Fiscal Update
  - ➢ Consumer Services/Statistics

V. Election of Council Officers

VI. Mutual Projects
- Accessible Public Transportation
- 2009 Nat'l Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM)

VII. Schedule of 2010 Joint Council Meeting

VIII. Announcements/Miscellaneous

IX. Adjournment

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals who wish to attend the meeting but require accommodations such as large print or sign language interpreters, are asked to call 322-6537(voice) or 322-6449(TTY). Please contact Magin Iginoef (Council Liaison) two days in advanced for necessary arrangements.

Publication of this notice is paid for by federal funds made possible by the United States Department of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSERS).

PauPau BAR Specials at Palms Resort Saipan

Relax and Unwind
Happy Hour
50% off on beverages
(excluding bottles)
Happy Hour
5:00 pm ~ 7:00 pm
Open Nightly
5:00 pm ~ 10:30 pm

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Miller Draft Fusion Mexican Dinner Buffet
Every Wednesday
Enjoy a sumptuous Fusion Mexican Cuisine with delicious selection with all you can drink Miller Draft and Tequila.
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PauPau Bar & Terrace 6:00 pm ~ 9:00 pm

Ladies Night
Every Thursday, Friday & Saturday
Ladies can enjoy a full pitcher of cocktail, finger food, 50% off for all the ladies (menu price) and ejoy live entertainment
PauPau Bar & Terrace 7:00 pm ~ 11:00 pm

Live Entertainment for this week

Ollei's Island Girls
this Friday 9/25th
7:00 pm ~ 11:00 pm

Maggie Naputi Band
this Saturday 9/26th
7:00 pm ~ 11:00 pm

The Palms on PauPau Beach
Relax and Unwind
For more information or reservaiton, please call 322-3311.

TEACHER

From Page 1

Cambodia, the Phnom Penh Municipal Court convicted and sentenced the 60-year-old Dodd to 10 years in jail for sexually abusing a 14-year-old Vietnamese girl.

Dodd, from Washington, was ordered to pay 20 million riels ($4,824) in compensation to the girl.

The judge also ordered the victim's mother to 10 years in jail for aiding in the sexual abuse of her daughter.

The newspapers said authorities arrested Dodd in Phnom Penh's Dauhn Denh district in Oct. 2008 over allegations of child sex abuse and procurement involving the victim and another 13-year-old girl.

In July 2002, Dodd pleaded guilty to five child molestation charges in the CNMI Superior Court. Then Presiding Judge Edward Manibusan sentenced the defendant to 10 years in prison.

During the sentencing hearing, Dodd admitted to the charges and apologized for his wrongdoings.

"I had no right to touch them. I was their teacher, not their playmate. It struck me like a knife to see the repercussions of what I did," Dodd told the parents of the victims who were in the courtroom.

Press Secretary Charles Reyes Jr. said yesterday that according to the Office of the Attorney General, Dodd was placed on parole on May 15, 2006 for his crimes in the CNMI.

Reyes said the parole was granted only on the condition that he leave the CNMI.

CNMI Board of Parole chairman R.B. Camacho in a statement said they have been monitoring Dodd's case in Cambodia closely and have had a good communication with the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Camacho said there was some discussion about returning Dodd to the CNMI prior to being brought to trial in Cambodia.

"I'm glad that the Cambodia justice system was given time to complete its work. I think the Commonwealth is safer and that justice is better served with Mr. Dodd remaining in Cambodia and being held accountable for his new crimes there," Camacho said.

PROBE

From Page 1

including victims and kin of those who sued CHC for medical malpractice attended the Tuesday night hearing, no one showed up at the hearing scheduled in the morning in the House chamber on Capital Hill.

During the public hearing, Carmen T. Cabrera could not hold back her tears while sharing the story of her 18-year-old daughter who died in March this year while undergoing a simple procedure at CHC to remove her tonsils that might lessen the frequency of her sore throats.

With her lawyer Michael Dotts beside her, Cabrera asked members of the House Committee on Health, Education and Welfare (HEW) chaired by Rep. Ralph Torres (R-Saipan) to help ensure that the doctors recruited to work at CHC are competent.

During a House session yesterday afternoon, Palacios said an oversight hearing on health issues will also look into mismanagement, medical malpractice, employment contracts, and other employee and patient concerns.

Rep. Ed Salas (R-Saipan) said many of the issues raised during the public hearing were the same concerns aired by patients and CHC employees in a survey conducted by the House HEW Committee.

"These include mismanagement, lots of displeasure with the leadership, and salaries," he said.

Intolerable

Rep. Justo Quitugua (D-Saipan), a member of the House HEW Committee, said while many of the issues brought up during the Tuesday night public hearing were not new, some are not.

"What troubled me the most is that after the hearing, one CHC employee approached me and told me that she's advised not to attend the public hearing or else her contract will not be renewed," Quitugua said.

The House Speaker asked Quitugua to repeat what he said, and other lawmakers expressed concern about the alleged intimidation at CHC.

Palacios also said the CHC employee who broke her silence on the issue should be commended for her courage.

Rep. Joe Reyes (R-Saipan), who visited the hospital yesterday, said it is surprising to see a sign that says one of the clinics is closed daily from 11:30am to 12:30pm.

Rep. Ray N. Yumul (R-Saipan) said CHC employees have the right to be free of coercion. He said his Committee on Ways and Means offered to help the HEW Committee if it needs financial audits of all CHC contracts.

"We should not tolerate those who instill fear among people; that if they come out and speak freely, they will be subjected to harassment and they're told they will lose their jobs. That's intolerable," he said during the session.

Rep. Ray Palacios (Cov-Saipan), for his part, said he has also heard constituents raising then issue of political interference in the hiring of unqualified people at CHC.

Rep. Rosemond Santos (R-Saipan) said her Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations stands ready to assist in looking into reports of intimidation tactics at CHC.

"The last time I check, we live in a free country," she said, referring to CHC employees advised not to attend legislative public hearing on health issues.

The House Speaker said lawmakers "need to look further into this."

"We can't afford to drop the ball on this particular issue," he said.

The House HEW Committee will meet again today and tomorrow to start formulating questions for DPH officials during the oversight hearing set for next week or the week after.

Torres said he will also subpoena hiring documents at CHC, among other things. Earlier, he expressed disappointment that no DPH official showed up at either of the two public hearings on Tuesday. Acting Health Secretary Pete Untalan is currently off-island.

DHS

From Page 1

sured by Napolitano that she's "personally committed to finding a solution" to the CNMI's problem regarding the exclusion of China and Russia from the list of countries that could participate in the joint visa waiver program authorized by Public Law 110-229.

"She made it clear that she is aware of the Commonwealth's precarious economic situation and its reliance on the tourism industry," said Fitial.

The governor's meeting with Napolitano came a day after the Department of Homeland Security secretary met with Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP) and Delegate Madeleine Bordallo (D-Gu).

In that meeting, Napolitano said DHS would be ready for the Nov. 28 implementation of the federalization law, but Sablan said he is still not convinced that DHS is prepared to implement border control by Nov. 28.

Napolitano told Fitial what she had told Bordallo the previous day—that her staff was working on a possible solution for discussion with both the CNMI and Guam.

The administration said Napolitano hopes to have the proposal ready to share with the two interested areas by the end of this week or by early next week.

The CNMI stands to lose millions of dollars in revenue once Chinese and Russian tourists are restricted from coming into the CNMI without a U.S. visa.

Fitial also thanked Napolitano for her commitment to work out a solution, adding that the CNMI looked forward to evaluating any proposal DHS might develop.

"He told her that, in his opinion, a legislative fix of the kind proposed by Chairman (Nick) Rahall and Subcommittee Chairwoman Bordallo might be necessary if the proposed solution did not fully meet the needs of the Commonwealth's tourism industry," said the Fitial administration.

Fitial and Napolitano had worked together closely in the National Governors Association for four years until the former governor of Arizona was selected by President Obama to be the head of DHS.

Rahall, Bordallo meeting

After meeting with Napolitano on Sept. 22, Fitial met with Bordallo and U.S. House Committee on Natural Resources Rep. Nick Rahall II (D-WV). He thanked them for their letter of Sept. 14, 2009 to Napolitano regarding the visa waiver rule.

Rahall and Bordallo, in their two-page letter, said they're prepared to extend the Nov. 28, 2009 effective date of the federalization law by 180 days, if necessary, so that DHS might make the necessary changes in the regulations to include "the two foreign markets determined to be of significant economic benefit for the CNMI."

"We do not believe the program should take effect until DHS has reviewed and programmed the resources necessary for affording initial participation in the program to these two foreign markets," they said.

Napolitano had already delayed by 180 days—the maximum allowed by law—the original June 1 implementation date for the federalization law. The new effective date is Nov. 28.

Any further delay would need a bill in U.S. Congress amending P.L. 110-229, but local officials concede this is a long shot with only a few weeks to go before Nov. 28.

FEDERALIZATION

From Page 1

Titled "The Commonwealth's Protocol for Implementation of Public Law 110-229," the document prepares the CNMI for federalization which will immediately affect displaced government employees and foreigners who currently hold CNMI-granted status.

Press secretary Charles Reyes, when asked for comment yesterday, said the governor has "approved such a plan to address important transition issues."

By Nov. 28, for example, CNMI immigration employees will be out of job given that the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Customs and Border Protection has not hired a single U.S. citizen from the CNMI in the 18 months since the federalization law was signed.

Attorney General Ed Buckingham and Howard P. Willens, special counsel to the governor, with instructions from Fitial, undertook the preparation for the protocol.

"The current version of the protocol is intended to collect our policies for reference by all concerned in both the public and private sectors in the Commonwealth and by the responsible federal agencies," said Willens in a Sept. 15 memorandum for Fitial.

The protocol aims to implement the transition smoothly with as little disruption and uncertainty as possible, keep families together and treat affected persons fairly, and minimize adverse consequences to the recovery of the CNMI economy.

It said the provisions of P.L. 110-229 are imprecise as to the way that the U.S. authorities are to interact with the CNMI authorities and DHS has not yet shared its views on most of the issues discussed in the protocol.

The protocol listed at least 28 CNMI laws about which pre-emption questions could be raised, and these include the organization of the Executive Branch, the Commonwealth Entry and Deportation Act, the Nonresident Worker's Act, the Commonwealth Employment Act of 2007, Excise tax and user fees, and the Commonwealth Minimum Wage and Hour Act.

Outsourcing of services

The Fitial administration has been preparing for discussion with CBP in Washington, D.C. on a proposal to outsource certain port of entry jobs to a private CNMI contractor.

The private contractor would employ current CNMI Division of Immigration employees and provide these employees to supplement CBP personnel assigned to the Commonwealth.

"The contractor personnel would work under the supervision of CBP onsite supervisors," the protocol said.

Under P.L. 110-229, DHS will control and operate six ports of entry in the CNMI.

In the short term following the Nov. 28 transition, the CNMI intended to use the current Department of Labor workforce in dealing with the problems of employing U.S. citizens to the maximum extent possible.

Travel restrictions

The protocol also urges DHS to waive travel restrictions for foreign workers, foreign investors, and foreign students.

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services officials have announced that nonresidents will be prevented from returning to the CNMI if they lave the islands for medical, family, businesses or other reasons.

"That is unnecessary, highly damaging to the Commonwealth and its citizens, and unacceptable from the Commonwealth's point of view. DHS has authority to waive these restrictions and should do so," the protocol said.

It added that anyone who holds a CNMI-issued permit or a federally-issued CNMI-only permit is not a threat to U.S. national security and should be allowed to continue employment if they leave the CNMI and return during the term of the permit.

The proposed E-2 CNMI investor status rule, published last week, provides the same travel restrictions to foreign investors.

Under the proposed regulations, the foreign investor must apply for a visa at a consulate or embassy in his home country and obtain a U.S. visa issued by the Department of State to be able to re-enter the CNMI.

PL 110-229 provides specifically that lawful permits issued to persons who wish to remain in the CNMI after Nov. 28, 2009 will be respected for the duration of the permit but not to exceed two years.

Permits

Local government agencies will continue to issue permits and extension until Nov. 27, 2009 for CNMI immigration categories, from 240A to 240Y, and other categories made necessary by the transition to federal immigration law.

For example, the Department of Commerce and the Division of Immigration will continue to issue regular-term business entry permits and extensions in the normal course until Nov. 27, 2009.

CNMI Immigration will issue two-year permits as of Nov. 27, 2009 to every alien who is a government employee and for whom the Office of Personnel Management certified a need for a two-year permit.

The local Immigration will also continue to issue visitor entry permits and extension in the normal course until Nov. 27, 2009.

The government intends to issue public notices and awareness campaign to disseminate information contained in the protocol.

Lynn Knight, a former chair of the Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands (HANMI), said the CNMI's protocol document is a "phenomenal undertaking on this incredibly complex issue."

"Unfortunately, so many gray areas remain even at this late date. This is a pro-active effort to establish what should happen next on the working relationships and necessary details of the immigration takeover. I want to congratulate all those who contributed to the document and I certainly hope the federal officials who will have some role in this going forward will take the protocol very seriously," said Knight, who used to be a communications liaison on immigration issues. She now lives in the Washington, D.C. area.

The Fitial administration first reported the creation of a public-private task force to ensure operational concerns are addressed related to the federalization transition, right after Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan changed his position by now supporting a delay in federalization.

Sablan said DHS is not ready to implement the law by Nov. 28, but DHS Secretary Janet Napolitano said the department is prepared to control CNMI borders by the date set by law.

Retirement Fund withdrew $43M in FY09

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The NMI Retirement Fund withdrew $43 million from its investment portfolio during the current fiscal year that ends on Sept. 30.

Fund comptroller David Demapan reported to the board Tuesday that the agency registered over $1.9 million in "savings" from the projected drawdown for the fiscal year.

The board of trustees authorized the withdrawal of $45 million from the investment during the 12-month period.

Demapan said that as of Aug. 31, cumulative drawdown amounts to $41.7 million, leaving a fund balance of $3.2 million for the fiscal year.

Last Sept. 15, he reported that $1.3 million was taken out from investment monies and the agency is not expecting to make another withdrawal until the end of the month, citing an increase in the agency's cash flow for the month.

He said pension benefits to be provided to members and other obligations of the Fund will be sourced out from collections and other revenue expected within the month.

Records from the Fund show that in October 2008 a total of $4.9 million was withdrawn from the investment fund; November saw $3.7 million; and December had $4.4 million.

In January this year, it recorded a drawdown of $4.1 million to pay pension benefits; February with $3.6 million; and March with $4.4 million.

The agency, due to its aggressive collections and positive notes on other revenues, managed to lessen the drawdowns in the following two months, which indicated that only $1.9 million was taken out in April and $2.8 million was withdrawn in May.

June and July this year, however, recorded total withdrawals of $4.2 million and $3.9 million, respectively.

Demapan reported that for August alone, a total of $3.6 million was deducted from the Fund's portfolio.

Saipan Tribune learned that for FY 2009, the board authorized $76 million for operational costs of which $45 million came from the investment drawdown.

Demapan reported that the agency is constantly monitoring the spending level of its operations and through the 11-month period ending Aug. 31, the Fund is on target with its budget authorization.

As of July this year, the Fund reported that the market value of its investments is $318.9 million.

During the same period, its asset allocation showed $7.1 million in money market;- $84.6 million in fixed income; $207.3 million in common stocks; and $18.6 million in hedge funds.

Of the total portfolio, common stocks translate to 65 percent of the total asset allocation; fixed income is 27 percent; hedge funds is 6 percent; and money market is 2 percent.

By virtue of a court judgment, the Fund is expecting to collect over $231 million from the government's delinquent employer's contributions.

Due to the current fiscal status of government revenues, the administration proposed to the Fund to lock its investment monies to $370 million to ensure the continuity of its program and to strengthen the lifeline of the Fund.

It proposed to sustain the operational budget of the agency as a form of repayment plan.

However, the proposal was disapproved by the board during preliminary discussion.

Foundation launches donation drive for Choi-Wan evacuees

NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.

Tan Siu Lin Foundation donated food items to residents of Alamagan and Agrigan who were forced to evacuate after super typhoon Choi-Wan devastated their home islands last week. The donation was made at the Salvation Army office in Capital Hill. Shown in photo are, from left, Century Insurance Co. president David Sablan, Tan Holdings vice president for finance Lina Dimaano, Tan Holdings senior vice president Eli Arago, Salvation Army ministry leader Dwayne Gillespie, Tan Siu Lin Foundation manager Ed Arriola Jr., D&Q manager Max Kreutzers, and Tom Cepeda.

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

Tan Siu Lin Foundation launched this week a donation campaign for residents of Alamagan and Agingan who were evacuated to Saipan after super typhoon Choi-Wan utterly devastated their home islands.

Tan Holdings Corp. senior vice president Eli Arago, vice president for finance Lina Dimaano, and TSLF manager Ed Arriola Jr. turned over food donations to the Salvation Army office in Capital Hill yesterday.

The food items included 40 cases of spam and 15 cases of beef stew.

D&Q manager Max Kreutzers brought the items to the Salvation Army office, which included his company's donation of boxes of soup, iced tea, and cereals.

Salvation Army ministry leader Wayne Gilespie said they are caring for a total of seven families, who are now temporarily housed at the American Red Cross Society shelter near the Francisco C. Ada-Saipan International Airport.

Through the direction of Tan Holdings president and chief executive officer Jerry Tan, TLSF launched the donation campaign by disseminating information to Tan Holdings' affiliate companies.

Arriola said many companies and employees immediately responded and the foundation is ready to collect clothing and other items that will be turned as soon as possible.

Kreutzers said it's good to give a piece of what you have to the most needy.

Super typhoon Choi-Wan spared Saipan from its destructive wrath last week but the Northern Islands of Alamagan and Agrigan suffered a different fate with vicious typhoon winds and rain battering and destroying all the buildings on those islands.

The 20 people who were living on Alamagan and Agrigan lost everything they had.

All but one building on Alamagan was destroyed and Agrigan is not doing much better.

The CNMI government, Salvation Army, American Red Cross, and other groups are currently helping out these people.

Please donate any old or unused clothes, household goods, shoes, books, canned foods, and/or cash so that we can help these displaced people.

Contact Ed Arriola at ed_arriola@tanholdings.com or call at 233-8080 to coordinate the pick up of items.

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New investment eyed for Saipan port

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

A new $6-million investment has been offered to the Commonwealth by a firm wanting to build a dock facility on Saipan for its ship disposal program, with no cost to the government.

Worldwide Salvage Saipan, LLC yesterday presented its proposal to the Commonwealth Ports Authority asking for 600 feet of land for the project's realization.

James McCollum, chief executive officer and president of the firm, along with vice president for administration David Sablan, said the site is the most critical part of the project, which intends to bring "old" ships from California, Texas, and Virginia.

Once on island, these ships will be dismantled and parts will be shipped out, according to the officials.

Prior to their presentation to the CPA board yesterday, the officials said they have been meeting with the Legislature and the Department of Public Lands for the necessary permits for the project. An area in Puerto Rico is being eyed by the company to connect its ship disposal business to the dock facility.

A warehouse for the preparation and disposal of toxic wastes, they said, is also vital in the project.

The company asked CPA for a temporary lease agreement of at least 90 days so the company could move forward with the other federal requirements for the undertaking.

Sablan said as soon as they get the temporary lease agreement for the 600 feet of land and a warehouse, McCollum will return to Washington, D.C., to meet with the U.S. Department of Transportation and concerned individuals for the business' permanent contract.

The ship disposal program mostly focuses on merchant marine ships such as cargo and tankers.

The requested dock facility will become its temporary base until it builds a permanent dock, amounting to $6 million.

Construction of the dock is expected to be completed within three months and the company assures there will be no delay in the other activities at the port.

"We will do it with no cost to the CNMI government…and which after 12 to 15 years will be reverted back to CPA [ownership]," Sablan explained, adding that they are offering a long-term business to the island.

They said initially, 250 people will be employed in the operation.

The company also said they will use Agingan Point for the incineration and toxic wastes disposal.

They described ships of about 400 to 500 tons will be accommodated at the dock facility.

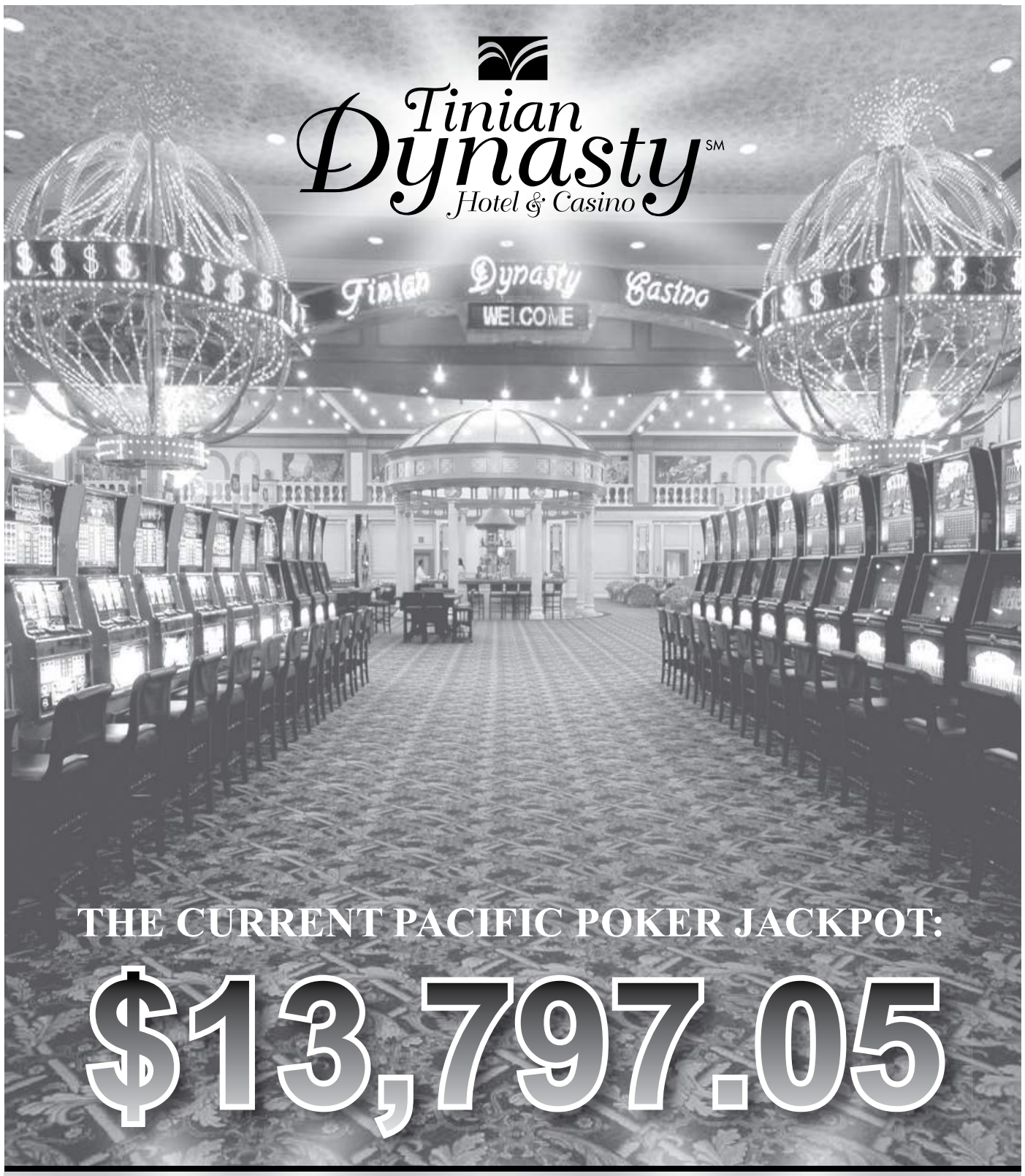
The CPA board, in response to the proposal, has instructed management and the legal counsel to conduct a feasibility study to see if a lease temporary agreement can be granted to the company.

CPA executive director Efrain F. Camacho said the board would make the decision in its special board meeting next week.

Early this year, Allegiance Capital Corp. proposed an investment of over $100 million at the island's seaport.

The company wanted a 25-year lease agreement for the dry dock property of CPA in line with its project with the military.

However, up to this time the business proposal had not moved forward.



10 FEMA personnel hold training on catastrophic planning

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Ten visiting personnel from the Federal Emergency Management Office conducted a training session yesterday for local emergency responders and civilian volunteers pertaining to FEMA's catastrophic planning.

"We're training emergency responses and what's going on in Guam," according to FEMA external affairs director John Hamill.

Hamill said there's a plan being developed for the impact of catastrophic hurricane in Guam.

"We came here to inform people in an emergency management community how would that affect CNMI as well," he said.

The FEMA team came from Guam.

The director said if there might be mutual aid agreement, FEMA, Guam, and CNMI have to try to help each other.

He said the FEMA team of trainers are here on Saipan explaining some of the procedures for getting a declaration for emergency and other things.

Hamill said they are preparing a catastrophic plan that will be in a year in process to develop.

"It covers a range of things from food positioning and commodities that might be needed," he said.

Some FEMA personnel will continue training today, Thursday, while others will go back to Guam for more meetings.

Yesterday the training was with Emergency Management Office personnel and emergency responders and with the American Red Cross' volunteers.

He said the training was about catastrophic planning for Guam as how it will also affect CNMI indirectly.

Hamill clarified that they are not here in the CNMI to conduct assessment damage on the devastation to the Northern Islands brought by super typhoon Choi-Wan.

Writers workshop at MTI on Sept 27

Independent author and *Saipan Tribune* columnist Walt Goodridge will be presenting a three-hour workshop on penning, publishing, and profiting from your passion for writing at the Northern Marianas Trades Institute in Lower Base this coming Sunday, Sept. 27, 1pm to 4.

"People would be surprised how easy it is to generate income both online and off selling what they've written," says Walt. "Bloggers, columnists, poets, just about anyone with a story to tell, an opinion, some expertise to share, or even repackaged information can do what I've done."

Goodridge, a former civil engineer who walked away from his career in the States to follow his passion, has himself written and independently published14 books, and recently coached former garment factory worker Chun Yu Wang to write, translate, and publish her memoirs under the title *Chicken Feathers and Garlic Skin: Diary of a Chinese Garment Factory Girl on Saipan*.

He has also helped countless others, including several other Saipan residents conceive, create, market and sell their books, earning hundreds (sometimes thousands) of dollars each month.

Attendees to the upcoming workshop will learn:

- How to choose a winning "recession-proof" subject
- Mastering the creative process for writers
- Selling online and internationally
- How to make money through Amazon.com™
- Finding the best low cost printing options
- How to prosper from the multiple streams of income available for writers

"Even if you're not a writer, you'll learn valuable internet marketing tips that you can use for any business, marketing promotion strategies, as well as tips for discovering your true passion," Goodridge adds. "Everyone will get something very specific and valuable out of the event, guaranteed."

Admission is $7. Students pay $2. For directions to NMTI call 235-6684.

For more details, visit www.SaipanText.com, where you can also sign up to receive a reminder text message the day before the event. ***(PR)***

Sec. Napolitano launches redesigned USCIS website

WASHINGTON—Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Secretary Janet Napolitano, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) Director Alejandro Mayorkas and Federal Chief Performance Officer Jeff Zients yesterday launched a redesigned USCIS website—available in English and Spanish—a major effort which fulfills President Obama's pledge to offer enhanced navigation tools for the public to access immigration information and review case status.

"Transparency and openness are critical to effective immigration and citizenship policies," said Secretary Napolitano. "USCIS' new website provides the public with the latest tools—from text messages to emails—to improve responsiveness and access to immigration services."

"The redesigned website we are launching today reflects our commitment to listening to the public and creating a better experience for the hundreds of thousands of USCIS customers we serve," said USCIS Director Mayorkas. "This effort is the first step toward creating a more innovative, customer-centric experience that meets the nation's citizenship and immigration needs."

Secretary Napolitano and Director Mayorkas made the announcement at a press conference at USCIS Headquarters, highlighting the Obama administration's commitment to achieving government accessibility and transparency using online and new media tools.

The new USCIS website provides a one-stop location for immigration services and information—including an innovative service called *My Case Status*, which allows immigration customers to receive alerts on the status of their applications via text message and e-mail.

Other new features include a *Where to Start* tool to guide users through the navigation process; a simplified way to track individual case status; local and national case processing times; an improved search engine; and a new *Information Dashboard* feature allowing users to access national immigration trends associated with immigration petitions and applications.

Visit the new sites at www.uscis.gov and www.uscis.gov/espanol. ***(PR)***

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Happy birthday to Kenneth Taitingfong. Have a great one. Wishing you all the best! Enjoy your very special day and many more wonderful birthdays to come. God bless you and we love you! From your family and friends.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

NMC on track with periodic report

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

Northern Marianas College is on track to submit its mid-term report is due to the Accrediting Commission for Colleges and Junior Colleges next month.

Pursuant to the requirements of the commission, NMC is required to submit periodic reports to the commission between comprehensive self-study reports that are accompanied by evaluation visits.

Saipan Tribune learned that the mid-term report, which the college is required to turn in on Oct. 15, is normally due on the third year following the evaluation team's visit.

NMC is expected to provide narrative information and analysis regarding the progress made on addressing each of the recommendations of the evaluation team, the areas identified in the planning agenda of its self-study, and updates on substantive change approvals or pending proposals.

Last June, the ACCJC reaffirmed NMC's accreditation for three years, or until 2012.

Although the college's accreditation was reaffirmed three months ago, NMC president Dr. Carmen Fernandez said they have not relented in their efforts to continue the momentous work they started in 2007.

"Work involving the integration of planning, program review, and budgeting, the institutionalizing the program review process, and other efforts aimed at establishing a culture of excellence continues at full speed," Fernandez said.

NMC has just completed the second cycle of program review and is gearing up for the third cycle.

Fernandez said the program review is helping the college shift towards a growth culture of data-driven, evidence-based decision-making for continuous quality improvement.

Majority of the information and insight gathered from the recent cycle of program review will be included into the Oct. 15 mid-term report, which highlights growth and NMC's opportunities for further improvement.

In addition, Fernandez said NMC will build on the affirmation of its accreditation by reporting on its progress on the 2006 self-study report.

Fernandez said by addressing the issues that led to show cause status, NMC has made great strides toward achieving proficiency and sustainability in the four accreditation standards set forth by the ACCJC

These include institutional effectiveness, student learning programs and services, resources, and leadership and governance.

Tomorrow, Fernandez is expected to deliver her annual performance report that will cover the college's accomplishments, challenges, and plans for the future.

The event will also be highlighted by the college celebration of reaffirming its accreditation.

STUDENT VISITORS CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Students of the Northern Marianas College pose for a photo with Japan-based Nihon University students, third and fourth from right. Students from the Japanese university recently visited the college, toured the campus, and interacted with NMC students. The students were also exposed to the islands' diverse culture and traditions.

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Weekend Events

Angelo for Mayor Weenie Roast

What: Angelo for Mayor Weenie Roast
Where: 13 Fishermen Memorial
When: Saturday, September 26. 12:00 – 5:00 PM
Why: To elect Angelo for Mayor for a cleaner, safer Saipan
Cost: The suggested donation is $5 and includes (1) hot dog and drink

Angelo for Mayor 5K Family Fun Walk and Run

What: Angelo for Mayor 5K Family Fun Walk and Run
Where: Start and Finish at 13 Fishermen Memorial
When: Saturday, September 26. Registration begins at 6:00 AM, start time at 7:00 AM
Why: To elect Angelo for Mayor for a cleaner, safer Saipan
Cost: The suggested donation is $15. All race participants will receive an Angelo for Mayor campaign t-shirt

Platform:

Municipal Services
Secondary roads in need of maintenance have to be paved, especially the roads leading down to Laolao Bay and Obyan Beach. To combat the stray dog and dead dog issue, an humane animal shelter must be built and a feral animal control program implemented.

Community Programs
Social development is dependent on community programs. Church groups work with young adults on literacy; sports programs help keep us fit; 4H Club and NMC-CREES helps keep agriculture and aquaculture improving. An events calendar will promote these activities that benefit both the local community and tourism.

Destination Enhancement
We deserve clean and safe villages and our tourists expect well-maintained tourist sites. Volunteers have cleaned up our beaches and streets and the next step is to develop a comprehensive solid waste management plan to reduce litter and illegal dumping.

Honest and Open Government
The goal of the Democratic Party is to restore accountability, honesty, accessibility and openness at all levels of government. To do so, we will create and enforce rules that demand the highest ethics from every public servant and open the books to scrutinize how your tax dollars are being spent.

Angelo for Mayor

Tinian holds successful Coastal Cleanup Day

The Tinian Chamber of Commerce welcomed over 30 volunteers and businesses on Long Beach (Unai Dankulo) last Saturday on the occasion of the 2009 International Coastal Cleanup Day.

Business volunteers began the clean up at 8am and successfully collected over 25 bags of trash and four truckloads of debris by 12pm.

"This was a real eye-opener to all of us, seeing the type of trash that washes up on our shores was frightening. I never knew how much plastic collects on our beaches. It is one thing to see it on the beach as you walk by or while you are swimming or barbecuing at the beach, but to sit there and collect trash for four hours and fill bag after bag after bag was a wake-up call for continued action. I would venture to say that nearly two-third of all our 27 bags of trash was filled with plastics," said Chamber president Phillip Mendiola-Long.

According to the Chamber, the event was a huge success and the Coastal Cleanup Event will now turn into a regular quarterly project for the organization.

"After we spent the morning collecting the enormous amounts of trash, all of the Chamber members recommended that we continue to hold coastal cleanup events every three months. Everyone really had a good time and it turned out to be a good way to bring the community and families together for a great cause. It was and will be a win-win for everyone involved… including Mother Nature," said Mendiola-Long

The Chamber would like to thank the following participants and companies who helped in the 2009 International Coastal Cleanup Day: Allen Perez, Susan Cruz, Michelle Cruz, Mariah Cruz, Giancarlo San Nicolas, Patricia San Nicolas, JP San Nicolas, Kemmy Evangelista, Arley Long, Tasi Long, Isa Long, Cielo Long, Phillip Long, Rigor Barit, Vince Requiron, Tandy Rutor, Sherwin Pascua, Henry Hofschneider, Luis Hofschneider, Adrian Yue, Audrey Yue, Don Power, Liza Power, Senator Jude Hofschneider, Ray Dela Cruz, Ike Quichocho, Janet King, Bal Thapa, Maxir Thapa and Freddy Hofschneider. Businesses included: Sherman Consulting, LLC (CNMI), Susan's Creations, AMP Investments, Tinian Mobil Western Union, Tinian Mobil Mart, Bridge Investment Group, LLC, Tinian Ice & Water Inc, Power International Builders, San Nicolas Law Firm, King Law Firm, Quichocho Enterprises, Tinian Dynasty Casino, Tinian Farmers and Fisherman's Co-op Producers, Tinian Real Estate Investments, LLC, Maeda Pacific and Sherman Consulting, LLC (GUAM). ***(PR)***

Chief Aghurubw celebration this Saturday

Island residents will once again make their annual trip to Managaha Island this Saturday for the Chief Aghurubw celebration.

Held every year in September, this event commemorates the completion of the monument by the gravesite of Chief Aghurubw, a navigator from Satawal who resettled his people on Saipan.

In the early 19th century, Chief Aghurubw, together with Chief Nguschul, sailed his people away from their typhoon-ravaged islands, navigating by the stars to settle on Saipan.

Chief Aghurubw sailed to Guam to humbly request permission from the Spanish governor. His request was granted, returning to Saipan with the documents granting his people access, along with a top hat and cane, all featured prominently on the statue on Managaha Island.

Chief Aghurubw

The island, considered sacred to the Carolinian community and Chief Aghurubw's descendants, was the final resting place of Chief Aghurubw. In 1970, a small monument was erected in his honor. Saturday's celebration signifies the 39th year of that initial commemoration.

The Chief Aghurubw Foundation once again invites the public to Managaha Island for the annual Chief Aghurubw Commemoration ceremony, to be followed by lunch. Scheduled boat trips from Smiling Cove Marina on the Jambolaya: departing 8am, 9:40am, 11:30am, returning 12:55pm, 3:00pm and 3:55pm.

Additional ferry service is available at the Submarine Dock in Lower Base behind the former CUC location: departing 8am and returning 1pm.

As always, attendees are request to be at dock 20 minutes prior to scheduled departure. For any questions, contact 285-3282 or 287-5422. ***(PR)***

Four Saipan sites red-flagged

The Division of Environmental Quality has raised the red flag in four locations on Saipan and advises the public not to fish or swim within 300 feet of these locations for the next 48 hours or until otherwise notified.

Samples DEQ collected from Grotto Cave, Forbidden Island, South Laulau Beach, and Ladder Beach contained excessive concentrations of fecal indicator bacteria (enterococci) that exceeded the CNMI Marine Water Quality Standards.

These bacteria can indicate the presence of human and animal waste in the water. However, studies have shown that storm water runoff in tropical environments may also contain these bacteria from the natural environment, which may not be directly associated with public health concerns.

DEQ analyzes samples of marine recreational and storm drainage water from 38 locations on the Saipan's coast.

Marine Water Quality Reports are also provided at www.deq.gov.mp and www.cnmicoralreef.net.

Interested individuals and organizations can also receive email notifications of the weekly marine water quality reports. To do so, please send email to environment@deq.gov.mp.

DEQ welcomes all inquiries as to the quality of the beach water. The public is encouraged to contact DEQ at 664-8500 with any question. ***(PR)***

STATEMENT OF SUPPORT

Employer Support for Guard and Reserve officials pose with members of the CNMI Supreme Court following Tuesday's statement signing. From left at the signing table are Justice John A. Manglona, Judge Perry B. Inos, Chief Justice Miguel S. Demapan, General Benny Paulino, Justice Alexandro C. Castro, and Judge Romona V. Manglona.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

GRADUATION

The 13 graduates of the CNMI Judiciary Marshals' Training are congratulated by Judge Ramona V. Manglona and Chief Justice Miguel S. Demapan.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Sept. 24, 1999

US Navy turns over land to NMI

The planned expansion of the West Tinian Airport moved a step closer to implementation after the U.S. Navy and the CNMI government yesterday signed an agreement formally turning over some 1,500 acres of land in the island municipality of Tinian. In exchange for the return of the land, CPA has agreed to grant the U.S. military the use of the airport as well as landing rights. "This is the kicker that will get the project to move forward because it satisfies the grant condition to build a new runway," said Carlos H. Salas, executive director of the Commonwealth Ports Authority after a simple turnover ceremony.

Gov't overtime pay down 67 percent

The Tenorio administration has pared down overtime pay for government personnel by some 67 percent over the past two years that translated to savings of more than $8 million. In a report released yesterday as part of a series of analysis on public spending, the Department of Finance said departments and agencies forced between 33 percent to 100 percent reduction in overtime costs in line with the austerity measures. Finance officials used the last year of the previous administration to compare current expenditures, based on the review drawn up in the transition prior to the installation into office of Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio in January 1998.

Sept. 24, 2001

Continental Micronesia cuts 250 jobs

Continental Airlines furloughed 250 employees from its Micronesian operations due to the sharp decline in air travel as a result of the September 11 attacks on New York and the Pentagon. The Houston-based airline company said official notices of termination will be handed down this week to about 12,000 employees, including the 250 Continental Micronesia employees. Days after the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon early this month, US-based carriers announced massive reduction in operations in anticipation of the slump in air travel demands.

Labor department tightens ATB, re-entry requirements

The Department of Labor and Immigration is steadfastly monitoring all entries into the CNMI, announcing last week that all Authorization to Board and Re-entry letters will not be honored unless signed by DOLI Secretary Mark D. Zachares. The labor department came out with the memorandum in light of the recent terrorist attacks in New York and Washington DC. All ATB and re-entry letters issued on or before September 11, 2001 have been deemed null and void. The memo distributed to all carriers, consular offices and various government agencies stated that individuals who attempt to enter the CNMI with letters dated before Sept. 11 and without the secretary's approval shall be denied boarding and excluded from entry. These persons are advised to re-apply for the necessary travel documents at the DOLI Secretary's Office.

Sept. 24, 2002

Measures eyed to aid businesses

Rep. Andrew S. Salas is currently drafting proposed measures intended to promote a business-friendly environment and more importantly, assist local businesses during these very trying economic times. Salas, chair of the House Committee on Commerce, is proposing that the imposition of excise taxes on CNMI businesses be suspended until January 2003, an approach which the state of Hawaii has reportedly already adopted. "I just wrote a draft of a bill to postpone excise taxes to allow businesses on island to breath a little better. Times are hard and we need to assist them," Salas said yesterday.

Inos meets with US Educ Secretary

Education Commissioner Dr. Rita H. Inos was among the first batch of the nation's education superintendents and commissioners to dialogue with U.S. Education Secretary Rod Paige on issues relating to the implementation of the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001. The open discussion, held at the U.S. Department of Education headquarters in Washington D.C. last week, reportedly turned out to be a forum where education administrators raised concerns over each state and territory's struggles in meeting the mandates of the law. According to Inos, some states asked for leniency on certain requirements, adding that pushing forward with the "impossible" mandates is asking for "failure rather than success."

JOETEN 30th ANNIVERSARY

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!
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EDITORIAL

Overdrawn and uninformed: Consumers deserve a heads-up before they get hit with fees

Quick: exactly how much money do you have in the bank right now? You're probably not sure, especially if you share an account with someone else, a spouse, say, who doesn't necessarily check in with you every time he or she uses a debit card. And so, from time to time, you may have found yourself inadvertently making a debit card purchase that exceeds your remaining funds. Alas, the way you may have found out about the overdraft was a notice from your bank, days later, informing you that you owe a $30 service fee. The bank just automatically floated you a small loan and charged you for it without giving you a chance to accept or reject the offer.

Nothing in current law or regulations prevents banks from doing this, which is why banks' revenue from overdraft fees is projected to climb from $18 billion a decade ago to $38.5 billion this year. No doubt our nation's troubled financial firms need all the cash they can get these days just to remain on sound footing. No doubt many consumers who received automatic overdraft protection were indeed glad that they got it, as the American Bankers Association argues. And, yes, in an ideal world, consumers would be responsible for precisely monitoring their personal cash flows.

Still, both the Federal Reserve and some members of Congress are starting to raise questions about this practice—and they're right to do so. Average bank overdraft fees are rising at 4 percent a year—well above inflation—which suggests that banks are tapping their overdrawn customers for easy cash as opposed to merely covering transaction costs. Last December, the Fed proposed a rule that would bar overdraft fees unless a consumer, upon opening an account, either declined to opt out of the service or affirmatively opted in. Members of both the House and Senate are discussing even tougher approaches; Rep. Carolyn B. Maloney, D-N.Y., suggests that banks give consumers a choice each time they are about to overdraw their accounts.

Congress will have to consider banks' legitimate concerns. Too much regulation of debit card overdrafts could, conceivably, inhibit consumer spending that would otherwise propel economic recovery. But transparency is the hallmark of a fair and efficient financial system. Consumers are entitled to maximum feasible full disclosure, and under the current overdraft rules, they're not getting it.

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A simple and popular reform: Medicare for all

By THEODORE ROSZAK
Special to the Los Angeles Times

Roszak's new book, "The Making of an Elder Culture: Reflections on the Future of America's Most Audacious Generation," *a sequel to his* "The Making of a Counter Culture" *(1969), will be published this month.*

At last count, the bills I racked up for two years of heavy-duty medical care (hospitalization, surgery, nursing, drugs) came to $2 million. If it weren't for Medicare, my life would have been saved only at the cost of bankrupting my family. As it turned out, Medicare, with a reasonably priced supplementary insurance policy, has paid all the costs except for a modest co-pay for pharmaceuticals.

What a relief that I didn't have to worry about the financial side of my illness or fear that my coverage would max out or that my deductibles would be overwhelming.

I'm sure the health care providers involved in my case would have liked Medicare to pay them more; the system cuts back on some bills severely—and in some cases, I think, unfairly. (Those who save our lives ought to be paid more than mediocre basketball players.)

But I never heard a gripe from anybody along the way. I'm sure they knew that without Medicare they would be collecting practically nothing from me. Either that or I would have to perish without paying anyone a cent. That was the situation before Medicare was established in 1965. No insurance company would sell a policy to anyone over 65. Seniors simply weren't part of the health care marketplace.

If you're under 65 and want the Medicare option, you would have to pay a designated premium, which would have to be high enough to cover the costs of the expanded coverage. But it is bound to be lower than any private plan.

Liberal defenders of President Barack Obama's campaign for health care reform have tried to allay the fear that the "public option" is a scary government "takeover" of the health insurance industry by citing Medicare as a benign example of a government-funded and administered program.

One might have hoped that was common knowledge, but apparently even among those on Medicare, there are many who have no idea who's paying for their health care. Do they think there is a company called Medicare Inc. that has bestowed affordable health care on them as an act of charity?

Angry seniors rail against the government, but they cling to their Medicare with no fear that it will hire "death panels" to kill them off. Even when it is called to their attention that Medicare is a socialistic program, that fails to tar it as a nefarious liberal plot.

So why has it not occurred to the champions of reform that instead of telling people that the public option is "like Medicare," we might simply let the public option be Medicare? That would reduce all the complexities to one clear-cut public-option solution: Amend Medicare so that it will be available to everyone regardless of age.

Since 1951, the self-employed have been able to buy into Social Security; currently about 9 million of them are in the system. Why not remove the age restriction on Medicare and let everybody buy in who wants to buy in? Medicare provides a very elusive target for right-wing vilification or for those who seek to make reform look so complex that we must wait an additional 20 years to change the system. It is a time-tested program that people know and trust. It has an exemplary track record for low-overhead administration. Medicare is already the most successful cost-control program we have, and it can be made more effective still. (There are estimates that fraud in the system costs more than $60 billion a year—a serious but fixable flaw that accounts for enough money to keep the system solvent.)

Above all, it's here. Its administrative procedures and personnel are in place. Unlike health co-ops—which remain a mystery to most of us—Medicare needs only to be expanded, which has to be

See MEDICARE on Next Page

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Your LifePlan

By RIK and JANEL VILLEGAS
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Rik is a business instructor at NMC and Janel is a partner with BizResults, LLC (www.bizresults.org). They can be contacted at biz_results@yahoo.com.

After working with numerous businesses to develop strategies to help them achieve optimal results, it occurred to me that the same principles could be used to mastermind a person's life to achieve maximum success. I examined the essential elements required for a strategic plan to be effective and then adapted it to fit the needs for an individual. The results is something I call your LifePlan, and it is a powerful document that has the capacity to transform your life by helping you discover your purpose and achieve the vision you have for your life.

That's a strong statement, but I believe that once you understand and complete your LifePlan you'll be able to act with greater certainty, clarity, and commitment to achieve the results you want in life. This is because it offers a strategy to help you make more purposeful decisions and pursue activities based on your personal philosophy, goals, learning, and experience.

To understand the purpose of your LifePlan, you need to understand three concepts: Strategy, Planning, and Optimization. Strategy answers the question: What needs to happen? It can be defined as the clearly understood intent and direction to realize a specific outcome. Once you realize your intent and life's direction, then you can start planning.

Planning answers the question: How will it happen? It consists of the predetermined activities or events that are needed to produce a specific outcome. There are numerous options you can take on your journey to achieve your highest ideal. Having a strong vision allows you to work backwards and prioritize activities that will help you reach your goals in the shortest time possible. This is the basis of the third concept Optimization.

Optimization answers the question: How do I get the highest and best use of my time and effort? Every person has limited resources to realize a specific outcome. The reason a LifePlan is so powerful is because it is a document that allows you to optimize your effort and those around you by focusing on high-leverage activities that achieve desired results and will ultimately realize your goals and vision.

Now lets look at the seven major components needed to develop your LifePlan: Purpose, vision, goals, driving forces, restraining forces, strategic activities, and next action steps. Each of these elements is the subject of books, but I'll try to summarize them in a few paragraphs.

The first step is to understand your purpose or mission in life. Every person is unique and it is that uniqueness that allows you to make a valuable contribution to your family, the community, and the world. Once you understand your purpose, you can examine where you are now and where you want to be in the future.

The first step is to understand your purpose or mission in life. Every person is unique and it is that uniqueness that allows you to make a valuable contribution to your family, the community, and the world. Once you understand your purpose, you can examine where you are now and where you want to be in the future.

That future state is the vision that your purpose will eventually help you realize. Imagine standing on the edge of a chasm or gorge, and on the other end is the vision of where you want to eventually arrive. The gap that separates you is determined by the time it will take to achieve your vision. For some, that gap seems insurmountable because of self-limiting beliefs, negative life circumstances, or the apparent lack of resources. For others, that distance is short because of a strong desire, high self-confidence, and a willingness to do whatever it takes to reach the vision.

Most goal-setting programs only focus on what you want to achieve, but provide little guidance on how you will achieve the goals. Your LifePlan creates a bridge to optimize your efforts to close the gap between your current and future status. Your goals act as support columns whereupon you implement your strategic activities. Those activities are the beams that span each goal and form the path for you to cross, and each plank of the strategic activities are the next action steps you will take on your journey across the gap.

It would be a simple process to just stroll across the bridge; however, there are forces that either drive you toward your vision, or create barriers that restrain you from achieving your goals in life. These are called driving and restraining forces, and it is vital to understand them so you can devise a strategy and execute a plan. Your strategic activities are designed to minimize your restraining forces and maximize your driving forces so you can purposefully achieve your goals and make measurable progress toward your vision.

As you make progress across your "bridge" with an effective LifePlan, you will gain greater confidence with every step because you will be advancing purposefully in the direction of your dreams and realizing the vision that will eventually become your reality.

Letter to the Editor

I belong here

I am the Democratic nominee for the Mayor of Saipan. This is not the career path I chose for myself years ago when I was in college, however having been asked by family and friends to run it is something that I promise to give my best effort to for the benefit of our island and our people.

This November the voters of Saipan will choose between me and eight other candidates who will be their next Mayor. I want to give voters the opportunity to know who I am and what makes me tick before I ask for their vote.

I have been back in Saipan for just under four years now. I was born here, but lived in several other countries for many years before returning. I would like to share with voters the story of how I returned to the island and why it is I stay even when there are opportunities for me elsewhere.

First of all, there is a special feeling I get from living on Saipan. It can be difficult to sense, but I find it when I am able to get away, able to find a quiet place. Sometimes it is when I am with family, sometimes alone. It is the feeling that makes it difficult for many of us to leave the island no matter the economic hardships we are facing. You can call this special feeling what you want, perhaps religious or spiritual, but I think this feeling comes from a connection to the past and to something greater than myself.

I will be the first person to tell you that returning to Saipan was never in my life plan. My mother left Saipan with her two little boys when I was three years old. My brother Alex had not yet had his first birthday.

After he divorced her, my father started a new family while my mother raised Alex and me as a single parent. I received the occasional letter from Dad, but saw him no more than once every few years. Although raised by my mother, I still managed to visit Saipan five times during my childhood and I have fond memories of fishing and hiking with my father and brothers. I have always considered Saipan my first home, but when I was about to graduate from college, no one was asking me what I was going to do when I returned. I am not sure if anybody really even considered me coming back.

In my final week of college, my father, the late Justice Ramon G. Villagomez, suffered a massive heart attack and was evacuated to a hospital in Honolulu. I flew to Hawaii to be with him, his wife, my four brothers, and my sister. I missed my college graduation so I could be there with them. It was worth it though; it was the last, and only the second, time my father's six children were all together. I don't know if that will ever happen again.

When he stabilized, we brought him home so that he could die on Saipan. We didn't expect him to live long; I thought he was going to die on the plane, but he hung in there for five and half years. During that interval, I went back to America, earned another degree and continued on with my life. Alex and I had an unspoken understanding that we would go back for his funeral and then would probably never return to Saipan.

Well, that changed.

I made plans to visit Saipan in 2005. I was moving to Japan and before my job started there, my girlfriend at the time and I decided that we wanted to pay a visit to Saipan and my family. We were scheduled to arrive on Dec. 17, 2005.

I moved to Japan at the end of November 2005. It was an exciting time; I was living in a new place and things were going very well. Then my world turned upside down.

On the morning of December 1, 2005, I woke up and opened up my laptop. I immediately started getting chat requests from Alex in Florida. I plugged in my camera, accepted the chat invitation and noticed that Alex was crying. My father had died the night before. Alex already had a ticket to Saipan. I told him I would meet him in the Narita airport.

Now, if my father had died at any other time, I would have purchased a ticket to Saipan, stayed for one week, buried him, and I would have left Saipan behind forever. But he didn't die at any other time. He died 17 days before I was going to see him for the first time in half a decade. So instead of coming for one week, I stayed for one month.

After burying him, I was able to rediscover Saipan. I was able to see this island for the first time as an adult and I discovered that special feeling I get from being here.

A few months later I was living on Saipan for the first time since I was three years old. And you know what I have realized since that day? I belong here.

Angelo O'Connor Villagomez
Gualo Rai, Saipan

MEDICARE

From Page 10

cheaper than starting from square one.

Neither the president nor Congress has done a good job defining a public option. How exactly will it be financed? What will it cost? What coverage will it offer? Who will run it? With Medicare, we already have answers to these questions.

If you're under 65 and want the Medicare option, you would have to pay a designated premium, which would have to be high enough to cover the costs of the expanded coverage. But it is bound to be lower than any private plan. (Seniors still would be covered, without paying a premium, as they are now.)

Those who join would find that, unlike the convoluted policies that private insurance companies offer, Medicare literature clearly states what it does and doesn't pay for—and what you pay (if anything) beyond what the program covers. In my experience, a phone call to Medicare produces reliable and courteous information. Or for you novices, you might simply ask your parents or grandparents what the deal is.

Medicare excludes no one for prior conditions; it is portable and stays with you for a lifetime. Worried seniors actually might like seeing Medicare get bigger and take in more money. That would produce a more durable program that's better able to bargain with providers and pharmaceutical companies. Even Republicans and Blue Dog Democrats might find it more acceptable to vote for an enlarged Medicare than for another public option. And as a bone to the insurance industry, those covered by expanded Medicare, like those covered by classic Medicare, could buy private supplementary insurance plans to pay for whatever remains uncovered.

As for the uninsured who cannot afford even reasonable premiums, this is a problem with every reform proposal. Obama has identified several convincing ways in which subsidies for the truly needy could be provided. Besides, if we are going to have any reform at all, Congress will have to come up with some combination of savings and revenues to pay for a comprehensive program.

Despite noisy opposition and malicious misinformation, a majority of the public still wants health care reform, but legislation running to 1,000 erudite pages looks formidable. Why not start with something as familiar and popular as the program that paid for your mother's hip replacement or your grandfather's bypass surgery? It is easier to promote something tested and trusted than something strange and new. It is easier to enlarge a proven, existing program than to start from scratch. It is easier to win people over to something simple than to wade through endless complexities about how a new system will work. "Medicare for Everybody" is practically self-explanatory—and very nearly bulletproof.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. Southeast winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. Southeast winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°

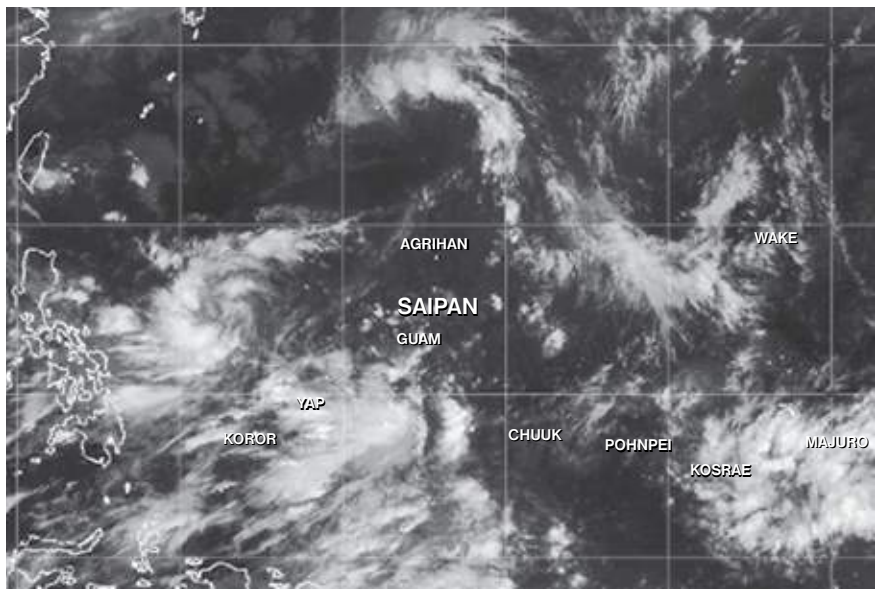
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Mostly Sunny	▲85	▼76
Palau	Rain	▲84	▼77
Yap	Showers	▲85	▼77
Chuuk	Mostly Sunny	▲88	▼78
Pohnpei	Showers	▲86	▼77
Kosrae	Rain	▲87	▼79
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼79

Around The Globe

Auckland	Rain	▲65	▼56
Beijing	Cloudy	▲73	▼60
Hong Kong	Showers	▲88	▼81
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	▲84	▼78
London	Partly Sunny	▲68	▼50
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲96	▼66
Manila	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼77
Melbourne	Rain	▲64	▼50
Miami	Showers	▲88	▼79
New York	Thundershowers	▲81	▼63
Osaka	Sunny	▲80	▼61
Paris	Mostly Cloudy	▲74	▼55
Pusan	Cloudy	▲80	▼63
Rome	Mostly Sunny	▲79	▼59
Salem	Mostly Sunny	▲78	▼46
San Francisco	Sunny	▲78	▼55
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	▲77	▼57
Tokyo	Partly Sunny	▲79	▼65
Washington, DC	Thundershowers	▲86	▼66

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2009

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A monsoon trough extends eastward from the northern Philippines across 17N130E through a circulation near 17N133E then southeastward through another circulation east of Yap at 9N145E to end near Chuuk at 7N153E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are in an area from 19N132E to 19N138E to 12N133E to 15N130E back to 19N132E. Other scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms associated with surging westerly winds south of the monsoon trough and the circulation east of Yap are between the equator and 12N from 130E to 150E. This area includes Palau and Yap. An upper-level low is northwest of Wake Island at 23N162E. Divergent upper-level flow around the periphery of the high is triggering scattered showers within 75 miles of a line from 25N149E to 18N153E and within 75 miles of a line from 17N162E to 22N164E. A near-equatorial trough extends from near Kosrae at 5N165E eastward along 5N across the date line. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms from Kosrae across the Marshall Islands are in an area from 9N163E to 9N180 to 4N180 to 1N165E back to 9N163E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor		
5:22 AM Today	Low Tide:	0.1 Feet
12:28 PM Today	High Tide:	1.7 Feet
5:45 PM Today	Low Tide:	1.2 Feet
10:25 PM Today	High Tide:	1.7 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:06 AM	6:12 PM
Friday	6:06 AM	6:11 PM
Saturday	6:06 AM	6:10 PM
Sunday	6:06 AM	6:10 PM
Monday	6:06 AM	6:09 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	10:52 AM	10:16 PM
Friday	11:46 AM	11:07 PM
Saturday	12:37 AM	
Sunday	1:24 PM	12:00 AM
Monday	2:08 PM	12:52 AM

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF SEPTEMBER 23, 2009

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

C09597	11:50am	12:25pm	1, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM

C09597	12:50pm	1:20pm	1, 7

SAIPAN-GUAM

C09317	4:20am	5:10am	Daily
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	Daily
C09597	11:50am	1:20pm	1, 7 via ROP
C09601	12:30pm	1:20pm	4, 5
C09603	3:30pm	4:20pm	Daily
C09605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
C09599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

C0941	5:30am	8:05am	Daily
NW99	6:05am	8:40am	Daily
NW78	9:00am	2:05pm	Daily via NGO
NW75	3:50pm	6:25pm	Daily
C0943	5:25pm	8:00pm	Daily

SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)

OZ119	4:00am	6:40am	1, 3, 4, 6

SAIPAN-NAGOYA (NGO)

NW78	9:00am	11:40am	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 5

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ604	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ604	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ119	4:00am	11:20am	1, 3, 4, 6 via KIX
OZ606	3:30pm	7:00pm	4, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

CZ3008	3:30am	6:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA

OZ604/701	2:20am	11:25am	1 via ICN
OZ604/703	2:50am	11:25am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C09603/933	3:30pm	8:40pm	Daily via GUM
C09599/PR111	9:30pm	7:45am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG

OZ604/721	2:20am	11:45am	1 via ICN
OZ604/721	2:50am	11:45am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN

ARRIVALS

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

C09598	3:15am	3:50am	5, 6
C09312	1:20pm	1:55pm	6

GUAM-ROTA (ROP)

C09598	2:10am	2:40am	5, 6
C09312	12:10pm	12:40pm	6

GUAM-SAIPAN

C09598	2:10am	3:50am	5, 6 via ROP
C09316	2:20am	3:10am	1, 2, 3, 4, 7
C09596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
C09600	10:20am	11:10am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
C09312	12:10pm	1:55pm	6 via ROP
C09602	2:00pm	2:50pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
C09606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

C0942	9:25am	1:55pm	Daily
NW76	10:00am	2:35pm	Daily
NW77	6:35pm	1:40am+1	Daily via NGO
NW100	8:45pm	1:20am+1	Daily

OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN

OZ120	9:55pm	2:20am+1	2, 3, 5, 7

NAGOYA (NGO)-SAIPAN

NW77	9:10pm	1:40am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	2:20am+1	4, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ605	9:00am	2:30pm	4, 7
OZ120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	2, 3, 5, 7 via KIX
OZ603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ603	8:10pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

CZ3007	7:30pm	2:40am+1	1, 5

MANILA-SAIPAN

OZ702/603	12:45pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/603	12:45pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/C09596	10:00pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
C0934/9596	10:55pm	7:50am+1	Daily via GUM
OZ704/605	11:50pm	2:30pm+1	3, 6 via ICN

HONG KONG-SAIPAN

OZ724/605	12:30am	2:30pm	4, 7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; NW: Northwest; OZ: Asiana
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

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- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
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Moving forward in Honduras

By ROBERTO MICHELETTI
Special to The Washington Post

The writer is president of Honduras.

My country is in an unusual position this week. Former President Manuel Zelaya has surreptitiously returned to Honduras, still claiming to be the country's legitimate leader, despite the fact that a constitutional succession took place on June 28. Amid all of the claims that are likely to be made in coming days, the former president will not mention that the people of Honduras have moved on since the events of that day or that our citizens are looking forward to free, fair and transparent elections on Nov. 29.

The international community has wrongfully condemned the events of June 28 and mistakenly labeled our country as undemocratic. I must respectfully disagree. As the true story slowly emerges, there is a growing sense that what happened in Honduras that day was not without merit. On June 28, the Honduran Supreme Court issued an arrest warrant for Zelaya for his blatant violations of our constitution, which marked the end of his presidency. To this day, an overwhelming majority of Hondurans support the actions that ensured the respect of the rule of law in our country.

Underlying all the rhetoric about a military overthrow are facts. Simply put, coups do not leave civilians in control over the armed forces, as is the case in Honduras today. Neither do they allow the independent functioning of democratic institutions — the courts, the attorney general's office, the electoral tribunal. Nor do they maintain a respect for the separation of powers. In Honduras, the judicial, legislative and executive branches are all fully functioning and led by civilian authorities.

Coups do not allow freedom of assembly, either. They do not guarantee freedom of the press, much less a respect for human rights. In Honduras, these freedoms remain intact and vibrant. And on Nov. 29 our country plans to hold the ultimate civic exercise of any democracy: a free and open presidential election.

Although much of the international community disagrees with our past actions, we can all agree on the necessity of ensuring Honduras' full commitment to the electoral process. Our citizens believe that the upcoming presidential election is the best way to guarantee peace and democracy. While the election will take place in little more than 60 days, the electoral process has been under way for some time. The election is being convened by an autonomous body, the Supreme Electoral Tribunal, whose magistrates were selected by Congress in early 2009 and ratified by then-President Zelaya. The autonomous body began the electoral process with presidential primary elections — which were supervised by the Organization of American States — in 2008 also during Zelaya's tenure. The upcoming election will include Honduras' first independent presidential candidate — a rarity in all of Latin America.

The winner of the November election will take office as president of Honduras in January 2010. At that moment my transitional administration will cease, and the newly sworn-in president will hold all the authority vested to him by our country's constitution.

Our whole country — whether members of political parties, youths, students or members of civil society, government, parental organizations or private businesses — is committed to guaranteeing transparent elections. Voter turnout will be a constitutional expression of self-determination and a demonstration of national sovereignty. The Supreme Electoral Tribunal has invited independent observers from around the globe to observe our voting process. Our country is open to the world. All organizations — churches, universities, think tanks, nongovernmental organizations — that wish to witness firsthand this great exercise of self-determination and democracy are welcome.

We are, of course, disappointed with the position of the United States and the European Union, both longtime friends. We look forward to continuing dialogue with the United States, the European Union and the rest of the international community to prove our commitment to democracy and the Honduran people's love of freedom. Coercive action directed at our nation will only harm less fortunate Hondurans, whose hospitals, schools, roads and other institutions rely greatly on our friends' generous assistance, for which all of our citizens are immensely grateful.

I have said from the moment I was sworn in as president of Honduras that I do not intend to remain in office one second more than what our constitution mandates. On Jan. 27 I will hand over leadership responsibilities to the ninth president of our 27-year-old democracy. Such actions are in keeping with the desire of the majority of our people: the strengthening of our democracy.

America by rails Part 8 – MidWest

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Vergara is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune*'s Opinion Section.*

It is not so much that I miswrote as I did not double check my data. I had been going by the accounts of train seatmates, and the light rail service I thought was being considered for Chicago to points beyond, turns out to be a fast rail service that will blanket most of the eastern seaboard and extends to Minneapolis, New Orleans, and Kansas City. This came about with the law that President George W. Bush signed November 2008 to radically upgrade the rail service in the country, a fact boldly displayed in the foyer of the Chicago Union Station.

(I defer to the former President when it comes to First Lady Laura who graduated at SMU in Dallas as a schoolteacher the year I enrolled at the university. That's a two-fer: George having the good taste to marry Laura the teacher. The other, of course, is the Marianas Trench Monument that a couple of lawyers out to make a name for themselves are bent on undoing, reportedly, on the technicality that certain procedures were not stringently followed. The monument and the rail upgrade make four points for George in my book, and I am not even counting the irrelevant and irreverent fact that he attends the religious services of a United Methodist Church!)

But the MidWest is where we are and the first paragraph of this account is significant because I sat at breakfast with a Japanese national from Kobe and I did not wish for him to think that we do not have (we don't) anything that compares to the bullet train *(Shinkansen) of Japan. But he is heading for Washington, D.C. where he might actually glimpse the Acella line that plies the Washington-NYC-Boston corridor and travels at a fast clip with amenities that had served Vice-President Joe Biden and other members of the U.S. Congress well.*

In the same breakfast table was a Singaporean lady whose features were Indo-Malay, married to an Egyptian Arab, and me, the Indo-Chinese-Malay-Iberian-Mexican mongrel of dual American-Filipino citizenship. It was lucky that we were the last batch at the breakfast table, otherwise, the diner staff would have driven us out of our berth when it took us more than an hour to finish our cardboard-tasting quiche over the liveliness and intensity of the conversation.

I also previously wrote how bulky the rail cars were. This was true on trains west of Chicago, from Houston to LA, San Francisco to Portland, and onward to Chicago and Kansas City. The cars heading east, however, are low and sleek , not the two-storey'd type that shakes when the train speeds up beyond 70 miles per hour. Our Singaporean-Egyptian duo has ridden the Euro Rail so they are familiar with the same technology as the *Shinkansen* in Japan and the D-series in China.

But now we are on the *Lakeshore Limited* heading towards Albany, NY where it splits into two directions, one heading for Boston and the other, New York City.

"Midwest" in the American imagination has actually two meanings. For the eastern seaboard, anything west of the Appalachia is Western United States, and in this sense, Midwest covers the area between Ohio and Nebraska above the Mason-Dixon line. Midwest is also a state of mind, specifically that of the Protestant missionaries and public school teachers who followed the woolen attired soldiers who took to the continental far West, across the Pacific to the shores of the Philippine and South China Seas. A majo rity of these religious and secular saints were from Ohio-Indiana-Illinois.

I refer to this geography and mindset as constituting a majority of Middle America. Geography-wise, it seems to have become captive to the casino fever, for though the river boats of the Missouri and the Mississippi have had a long history of gaming tables, new massive structures in Indiana seem to have been taken over by native American casinos in connivance with the Trump. I wonder what happened to the nudist camps and colonies along Michigan and Indiana thickets and sand dunes!?!

The Midwest mindset is very well represented in the trains I had taken with the superabundance of retired senior citizens finally enjoying the fruits of their labors earned in the automotive plants and their ancillaries that are now our receding sunset industries. This mindset is solid and decent. They willingly fought wars, many in Europe and the Pacific, most in Korea and Vietnam, and some in Panama, Grenada and Lebanon. They supported George I's incursion into Kuwait and Iraq, and overwhelmingly approved of George II's dislodging of the despised Saddam Hussein and his vaunted arsenal of weapons of mass destruction. They were and are more than passive observers in the Al Queda chasing game, as they watch with the glee when the cavalry seem to be close to the illusive tail of Osama Bin Laden. They are the ones, in my experience, who would tell their daughters and/or sons to be friendly with the foreign students, but "not dare marry 'em," unless they are blonde and brunette with blue or green emerald eyes!

I have had fun traveling on the coach train, and not unlike the previous cars from Texas to the West Coast to Chicago, no one has yet to inquire if they could sit with this brown-skinned stranger and his funny English lilt and accent.

There are two ways the Midwest mindset that dominated American presence around the world had come back to bedevil the foundations of Middle America. One is the preponderance of children and grandchildren of those who appropriated the teachings and the ways of the missionaries and schoolteachers who came to the Third World. These offsprings have entered Universities and Colleges across the realm that use to be the province of private white America. A lot of them come from Asia and Africa and they have since left their marks, as well as establish solid footing, on American academe, to the great chagrin and consternation of many whose children and grandchildren feel disenfranchised.

The other is the influence of those who drank deeply in the traditions and values of 19th century Protestantism. A provision in the Methodist Book of Discipline that would have removed blatant discrimination against persons of a particular gender preference, was voted down in the last General Conference of the United Methodist Church, not by continental jurisdictions who in fact approved of the change, but by central conference of the Third World who echoed the values of their mentors. We need not mention the painful rending currently happening in the body of the Anglican communion particularly its American branch. 20Some Episcopal dioceses are seeking membership in jurisdictions outside of the continent that still maintain the ethos of bygone days, fiercely condemning attempts to blur the clear black-and-white delineation between the sexes.

The Midwest, bastion of the American soul, is in deep turmoil and in widespread upheaval. Happily, the old generation is fading fast, and equally of great note, members of the Me-generation that followed are still watching their navels.

But today, a young man sat beside me in the train clutching a copy of Greg Mortenson's book, *Three Cups of Tea*¸ which I read a week ago and commented in this page on the train in the West Coast. He just finished a year working for Oxfam, attending to issues of charity and peace with justice, and now he is headed to the University to get a post-graduate degree in political science. With a guitar slung on his back, he sauntered off the train in Chicago, displaying the same gait of self-confidence of colleagues forty-some years ago, except then, they were considered to be at the margins of society. Today, they are mainstream.

Letters to the Editor

Yes to 400 new local jobs

A Saipan company is seeks a Qualifying Certificate (QC) tax abatement to open a call center in Saipan. I'm against offering QCs to shady characters, criminal enterprises, or businesses that survive on the backs of impoverished foreign labor, so I reviewed the facts of their application.

IT&E hopes to employ 400 local citizens, nationals, and permanent residents in a call center. In the past, hiring 400 employees here would mean importing 400 foreign contract workers that would compete against our local young people for employment, and those foreign workers would paralyze the local economy by remitting their salaries abroad.

The CNMI economy must end remittance and offer incentives to employers that hire local citizens. Not only does this company guarantee to hire a local workforce, they are already one of, if not the best private sector employer in the CNMI.

Their recent job fair was extremely well attended by local young people including many of my former students. The proposed call center is a bold, risky, and aggressive investment plan for the Commonwealth and this application does not include or alter the tax status of their existing phone company.

The NMI should fiercely promote this industry against other countries that have distinct advantages. The emerging Third World is dominating this industry due to their abundance of cheap labor. We have begun to increase wages, which is a disadvantage competing for this business, but we could offer several advantages to IT&E that could make this industry successful here.

We are on U.S. soil with native English speakers, a marketable advantage that should not be overlooked. The QC applicant has an existing phone company here, which greatly reduces their overall start-up costs and operations expense. If the CNMI offers them a zero tax base, we may be competitive with India and others. Without the tax advantage requested, the feasibility of competing with India and the Philippines is cost prohibitive, which makes the call center and 400 jobs dead.

The call center would help our economy and provide work for FOUR HUNDRED LOCAL RESIDENT CITIZENS. The NMI government is facing mass layoffs and should stop everything to seal this exciting new partnership and make these jobs a reality. I would ask CDA to reconsider the terms of their application or the governor to intervene in behalf of 400 unemployed residents here.

Ron Hodges
Via e-mail

Business

Fed likely to leave economic supports in place

WASHINGTON (AP)—Nurturing a nascent recovery, Federal Reserve policymakers are sure to leave a key interest rate at a record low and probably will keep other economic supports in place.

Fed Chairman Ben Bernanke and his colleagues are slated to wrap up a two-day meeting Wednesday afternoon, when they are expected to announce that the recession is likely over and that the nation's economic and financial climate is improving. But they'll also warn that rising unemployment, and still hard-to-get-credit for many people and companies, will make for a plodding rebound.

"We're kind of in an economic purgatory right now. We're in a recovery but it won't feel like one to Main Street," said Stuart Hoffman, chief economist at PNC Financial Services Group. "There's still a lot for the Fed to do to foster a lasting economic recovery."

Bernanke last week said the recession is "very likely over," his most optimistic assessment in months. And with the economy turning a corner, the central bank will examine the effectiveness of emergency programs to encourage spending and borrowing—critical ingredients to underpin the rebound.

Of great interest is whether the Fed will make any changes to a program intended to lower rates on home mortgages and support the housing market.

Not wanting to pull the plug too soon and risk short-circuiting progress, the Fed could opt at Wednesday's meeting—or perhaps later this year—to extend the program, some analysts said. The Fed's current goal is to buy $1.45 trillion in mortgage-backed securities and debt issued by Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac by year-end. Roughly $775 billion has been bought so far.

FDIC weighs extraordinary steps to shore up fund

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. is weighing several costly—and never-before-used—options as it struggles to shore up the dwindling fund that insures bank deposits.

The agency is considering borrowing billions from healthy banks. Alternatively, it may impose a special fee on the banking industry.

Each option carries risk: Drawing money from healthy banks would take dollars out of the private sector, making that money unavailable for investment in the weak economy. But charging the whole industry a fee to replenish the fund could push weaker banks toward failure.

A third option—borrowing from the Treasury—is politically unpalatable, since it would resemble another taxpayer-financed bailout.

A fourth option would be to have banks pay their regular insurance premiums early. But this idea wouldn't solve the fund's long-term cash needs.

"The bottom line is, there's no good solution," said Jaret Seiberg, an analyst with the research firm Concept Capital. "This is a fight over which option is least bad."

The FDIC is expected to propose a solution, possibly combining two or more of the options, at a board meeting next week.

Bank failures since the financial crisis struck have drained the fund to its lowest level since 1992, at the peak of the savings-and-loan crisis. The fund insures deposit bank accounts of up to $250,000.

Officials have approached big, healthy banks about making loans to the agency, said two industry officials familiar with the conversations, who requested anonymity because the plans are still evolving.

$1 MILLION PRIZE AP

In this July 23, 2009 file photo, Netflix customer Arthur Michelson poses the "Frost Nixon" DVD he rented from Netflix in front of his television at his home in Palo Alto, Calif. Netflix Inc. on Monday, Sept. 21, 2009 awarded a $1 million prize to a seven-member international research group as part of a three-year, intensely waged contest to help the online movie rental company predict more accurately what movies its customers will like.

Bank of America, JPMorgan overhaul overdraft fees

NEW YORK (AP)—As lawmakers prepare to implement sweeping credit card reforms, Bank of America Corp. and JPMorgan Chase & Co. are moving to overhaul overdraft fees and practices that have been criticized industrywide as excessive and harmful to consumers.

Bank of America Corp. said Tuesday it will cap the fees it charges customers for overdrawing their accounts, backpedaling on the hikes the company imposed just this year. Starting Oct. 19, Bank of America no longer will charge overdraft fees when a customer's account is overdrawn by less than $10 in one day.

A $35 fee will still be levied if the account isn't brought into balance within five days.

The Charlotte, N.C.-based bank also will limit to four the number of times an overdraft fee can be charged on an account per day. Just this year, the bank had raised that cap from five to 10. It also raised the fee this year for the first overdraft in a 12-month period to $35 from $25—a hike that still stands.

Enrollment in the bank's overdraft program is currently automatic for new customers, and opting out is possible only in "very limited" circumstances, said Anne Pace, a Bank of America spokeswoman. But now customers will be able opt out, meaning that transactions will be denied at the register if customers don't have enough money in their accounts to cover a purchase.

Rebound in commodities carries stocks to 2009 high

NEW YORK (AP)—A rebound in commodities drew investors back into the stock market and helped push stocks to new highs for 2009.

Major stock indicators rebounded Tuesday from a drop the day earlier to end at their highest levels in 11 months. The Dow Jones industrials rose 51 points after falling 41 on Monday.

After soaring 50.1 percent since hitting a 12-year low in early March, the Dow stands 170 points below the 10,000 mark—a level the average first crossed in March 1999 and hasn't been above since October.

In an about-face, the dollar weakened against other major currencies. That helped lift commodities like oil and gold as well as energy and material stocks. Financial stocks also rose sharply.

The gains came as the Federal Reserve began a two-day meeting on interest rates. Investors are hoping the central bank will provide a clearer indication of when it might raise rates. Analysts also expect the statement the Fed issues at the conclusion of its meeting Wednesday will indicate the economy is improving. Fed Chairman Ben Bernanke said last week that the U.S. recession was "likely over" from a technical standpoint even though troubles like high unemployment remain.

The Fed is widely expected to keep rates at their record low of near zero for the time being. Rock-bottom interest rates have helped fuel the market's nearly seven-month old rally, making cash plentiful and cheap and encouraging investors to buy up riskier assets.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Government: Half of Madoff accounts show no loss

NEW YORK (AP)—Federal prosecutors said Tuesday that a review of most accounts held by financier Bernard Madoff's customers when he was arrested shows that about half of the customers had not lost money because they withdrew more money than they originally invested. Prosecutors made the revelation as they told a judge in court papers that there was no need to order restitution because all of Madoff's assets will be distributed to investors through forfeiture requirements. As part of their filing in U.S. District Court in Manhattan, they summarized the findings of a court-appointed trustee who is calculating how much investors lost so it can be decided how to divide up assets that are recovered.

General Motors raising output at 3 factories

DETROIT (AP)—General Motors Co. will go to 24-hour operations at factories in Kansas, Michigan and Indiana to handle an expected increase in demand and to make up for production lost from a large-scale factory consolidation announced earlier in the year. The automaker says it will add a third shift at its Fairfax plant in Kansas City, Kan., in January. That will be followed in March or April by third shifts at factories in Delta Township, Mich., near Lansing, and Fort Wayne, Ind. About 2,400 production workers will be recalled as a result of the added shifts, and another 600 will be recalled at parts factories across the country, said Tim Lee, group vice president for global manufacturing.

Intel CEO: PC sales could rise in 2009

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—The worldwide personal-computer market is pulling out of its slump quickly and could defy predictions by growing this year, Intel Corp. CEO Paul Otellini said Tuesday. Otellini's comments at a conference Tuesday were more bullish than many analysts have been. Market research firms IDC and Gartner have both predicted a year-over-year decline in PC shipments in 2009, which would be the first such drop since 2001. The market has been dragged by a clampdown in corporate spending on new PCs, and some computer companies are already looking to next year for an upturn. Sales of cheap little "netbook" computers, used primarily for surfing the Internet, have been a bright spot, but those machines ring up low profits for PC and chip makers. Intel is the world's top maker of microprocessors, the "brains" of PCs.

STOCK Portfolio

ASIAN MARKETS

AUSTRALIA	4,737.100 Up 66.000 (+1.41%)
HONG KONG	21,608.26 Down 92.88 (-0.43%)
JAKARTA	2,456.9861 Up 17.629 (+0.72%)
TOKYO	10,370.54 Down 73.26 (-0.70%)
K. LUMPUR	1,176.90 Up 4.34 (+0.37%)
MANILA	2,842.51 Up 57.73 (+2.07%)
SINGAPORE	2,681.88 Down 3.75 (-0.14%)
SEOUL	1,709.04 Down 9.84 (-0.57%)
BANGKOK	725.03 Up 0.66 (+0.09%)

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW	9,829.87 +51.01
NASDAQ	2,146.30 +8.26
S&P	1,071.66 +7.00

MONEY MARKET

Australian Dollar	1.1398
British Pound	0.6093
Canadian Dollar	1.067
Chinese Renmbi	6.8257
Euro	0.6747
Hong Kong Dollar	7.7506
Indian Rupee	47.902
Indonesian Rupiah	9695
Japanese Yen	90.69
Malaysian Ringgit	3.4613
New Zealand Dollar	1.3749
Philippine Peso	47.325
Singapore Dollar	1.4088
South Korean Won	1194.9
Swiss Franc	1.0215
Taiwan Dollar	32.35
Thailand Baht	33.52

In U.S. dollar terms

Source: Associated Press

Nation

Stadiums, hotels put on alert amid terror probe

NEW YORK (AP)—The government expanded a terrorism warning from transit systems to U.S. stadiums, hotels and entertainment complexes as investigators searched for more suspects Tuesday in a possible al-Qaida plot to set off hydrogen-peroxide bombs hidden in backpacks.

Police bolstered their presence at high-profile locations. Extra officers with bulletproof vests, rifles and dogs were assigned to spots such as Grand Central Terminal in New York. Plainclothes officers handed out fliers at a nearby hotel with a warning in large block letters: "If you suspect terrorism, call the NYPD."

The warnings come amid an investigation centering on Najibullah Zazi, a 24-year-old Denver airport shuttle driver who authorities say received al-Qaida explosives training in Pakistan and was found entering New York City two weeks ago with bomb-making instructions on his computer.

Zazi's arrest in Colorado last week touched off the most intense flurry of government terror warnings and advisories to come to light since President Barack Obama took office.

Zazi

Though Zazi is charged only with lying to the government, law enforcement officials said he may have been plotting with others to detonate backpack bombs on New York trains in a scheme similar to the attacks on the London subway and Madrid's rail system. Backpacks and cell phones were seized in raids on apartments Zazi visited in New York.

Two law enforcement officials speaking on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss details of the investigation told The Associated Press that more than a half-dozen people were being scrutinized in the alleged plot. The FBI said "several individuals in the United States, Pakistan and elsewhere" are being investigated.

"There's a lot more work to be done," said Police Commissioner Raymond Kelly, cautioning that the probe was still in its early stages.

In two bulletins sent to police departments Monday and obtained by the AP, federal counterterrorism officials urged law enforcement and private companies to be vigilant at stadiums, entertainment complexes and hotels.

The bulletin on stadiums noted that an al-Qaida training manual specifically lists "blasting and destroying the places of amusement, immorality and sin ... and attacking vital economic centers."

Democratic chair pushes for health care changes

WASHINGTON (AP)—Bidding for support from Democrats as well as a single Republican, the chairman of the Senate Finance Committee gaveled open a long-awaited debate over health care Tuesday with fresh plans to reduce costs on working-class families and impose new obligations on the insurance industry.

"This is our opportunity to make history," said Sen. Max Baucus, D-Mont., who announced he was adding $50 billion to draft legislation to help those who would be required to purchase insurance.

The Republican whom Baucus has courted most assiduously, Sen. Olympia Snowe of Maine, said noncommittally the legislation was "a solid starting point—but we are far from the finish line."

Democrats hope to push the bill through committee by the end of the week, although it was clear many Democrats want to see changes first. In one statement that could cause political heartburn for Democrats and President Barack Obama, the director of the Congressional Budget Office, Douglas Elmendorf, said the proposal could wind up reducing benefits for seniors enrolled in private Medicare plans.

Obama has said, "Nobody is talking about cutting Medicare benefits."

Elmendorf also estimated in a letter to Baucus that some families with annual incomes in the range of $66,000 could wind up spending as much as 20 percent of that—$13,300—in out-of-pocket health expenses such as premiums and copays.

The panel is the fifth and last of the congressional committees to review Obama's call for far-reaching legislation to reduce the ranks of the uninsured, expand protections for those already covered and generally reduce the ruinous growth in medical costs nationwide.

Baucus has said he hopes the committee can complete work by week's end, although more than 500 amendments were pending to the 10-year, nearly $900 billion bill.

ACROSS THE NATION

Racial discrimination found at Pa. swim club

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—A state panel has found probable cause of racial discrimination at a suburban Philadelphia swim club that asked a day camp group of mostly black and Hispanic children not to return, a ruling the club's lawyer blamed late Tuesday on the "media firestorm" that followed the incident. The Valley Club in predominantly white Huntingdon Valley, Pa., has denied there was any racial motive behind its actions June 29, when children from Creative Steps Inc. day camp went to the club and their payment for swimming was refunded without explanation. The club has maintained that there were too many children for the number of lifeguards on duty and that many of the children who were at the club couldn't swim. Brian Mildenberg, a lawyer for a black girl who was part of the day camp group, said at a news conference Tuesday night that the report from the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission was the result of a thorough fact-finding process.

Fla. man charged in slayings of wife, 5 kids

TAMPA, Fla. (AP)—A southwest Florida man has been charged with six counts of first-degree murder in the slayings of his wife and five children, authorities said Tuesday. Mesac Damas was in custody at the Collier County Jail in Naples after he was released by authorities in Haiti, police said. No information on a court date was available. As Damas was being led out of jail in Haiti, he told a reporter from the Naples Daily News that he killed his family. "I am going to be buried next to my family," Damas said as he was being led out of jail in Haiti. "Yes, I killed them."

Police: Off-duty officer fatally shoots wife, self

CANTON TOWNSHIP, Mich. (AP)—Police in a Detroit suburb say an off-duty officer fatally shot his wife in the parking lot of a library and then shot himself. Sgt. Mark Gajeski (Guy-ES'-ski) of the Canton Township Public Safety Department says they both were Detroit officers who live in Canton. Police said the woman, 33-year-old Patricia Williams, was pronounced dead on arrival at a hospital Tuesday. Gajeski says the man, 36-year-old Edward Williams II, died later after being taken off life support. Gajeski says police had responded to a disturbance at the couple's home over the weekend. He says the woman was going to the Canton police station, which is near the library, when she was shot. The Detroit Police Department had no immediate comment.

House votes to extend jobless benefits

GIANT SQUID AP

This July 30, 2009 picture provided by the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration shows, from left to right, Alyson Azzara, a student at the University of Southern Mississippi; Jen Stevenot, an NOAA Fisheries Service contractor; Carrie Sinclair, NOAA Fisheries Service, and Melody Baran, NOAA Fisheries Service contractor, arranging a giant squid hauled up that night in a trawl that had been pulled 1,500 feet below the surface of the Gulf of Mexico on the NOAA research vessel Gordon Gunter. It's the first giant squid ever caught in the gulf - the only other taken from those waters was found dead and floating in 1954. Scientists were making practice trawls for a study planned in January of sperm whales, which eat giant squid, and the food available to them.

WASHINGTON (AP)—Jobless workers in imminent danger of losing their unemployment benefits would get a 13-week reprieve under legislation approved by the House on Tuesday.

The House bill, which applies to 27 states plus the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico with unemployment rates of 8.5 percent or higher, would add to the already-record levels of benefits that have been available to the jobless as the country struggles to recover from its prolonged economic malaise.

It would not, however, give any extra benefits to the longtime unemployed in states that have lower levels of joblessness, including Nebraska, North Dakota and Utah.

The bill passed easily, 331-83, although the two parties cast the measure in different lights. Democrats said the relief was still needed despite positive signs that their policies were reviving the economy. Republicans said the high jobless rate proved that the Obama administration's economic strategies weren't working.

The bill, if enacted, would offer a reprieve to more than 300,000 jobless workers who are slated to run out of unemployment compensation at the end of September and the more than 1 million expected to exhaust their benefits by the end of the year.

"Across America there are people who are hanging on by a thin economic lifeline called unemployment insurance," said the bill's sponsor, Rep. Jim McDermott, D-Wash. "Without passage of this bill, that thread will break for over 1 million workers before the end of this year, plunging them and their families into an economic abyss and threatening to reverse the positive signs we are beginning to see in the economy."

9 deaths blamed on Southeast storm; flood lingers

AUSTELL, Ga. (AP)—Neighborhoods, schools and even roller coasters at Six Flags over Georgia remained awash in several feet of murky, brown water Tuesday, even as an emerging sun shed light on the widespread flood damage.

So far, at least nine deaths in Georgia and Alabama were blamed on the torrential downpours in the Southeast. The storms finally relented and relief was in sight with just a slight chance of rain overnight, but the onslaught left many parts of the region in stagnant water.

In Tennessee, a man was still missing after jumping into the fast-moving water as part of a bet. Boats and trucks evacuated 120 residents from a retirement center as nearby creeks rose, and several hundred others were ferried from low-lying neighborhoods and motels to dry land.

Several hundred people in Georgia took refuge at shelters and officials worked to clean up and repair washed out roads and bridges. Georgia officials estimated $250 million in damages.

The storm left nine people dead in its wake, including a toddler swept from his father's arms. On Tuesday, rescuers found the body of 14-year-old Nicholas Osley who was swimming in the Chattooga River, along with another woman who was swept from her car in Douglas County just west of Atlanta.

Asia

Sydney dust storm; flight chaos, health worries

SYDNEY (AP)—A pall of red dust blown in from the Outback clogged the skies over Sydney on Wednesday, diverting international flights, disrupting ferries and prompting a spike in emergency calls from people suffering breathing difficulties.

No one was reported hurt as a result of the dust storm, but officials closed ferry services for hours on Sydney Harbour because visibility was cut to dangerous levels, and police warned motorists to take extra care on the roads.

Such thick dust is a rarity over Australia's largest city, and came along with whiplashing winds and other uncommon weather conditions across the country's southeast in recent days. Hailstorms have pummeled parts of the country this week, while other parts have been hit with an early spring mini-heatwave.

International flights to Sydney were being diverted to other state capitals because of visibility problems caused by the dust, Sydney Airports said. Three flights from neighboring New Zealand were turned back from Sydney and returned home because of the dust, Air New Zealand spokesman Mark Street said.

Qantas, Australia's national airline and biggest international carrier, said it expected severe delays throughout the day.

The state ambulance service said it had received more than 250 calls before midday Wednesday from people suffering breathing problems, and officials urged people with asthma or heart or lung diseases not to go outside and to keep their medicine inhalers handy.

AP

A man walks to work past an almost unseen Sydney Harbour Bridge during a dust storm Wednesday, Sept. 23, 2009 in Sydney, Australia.

Afghan officials live in fear of Taliban assassins

KABUL (AP)—During his two years as a provincial governor in Afghanistan, Arsalah Jamal survived four suicide attacks.

Once, a Taliban bomber dressed as a doctor struck as Jamal dedicated a hospital wing. Twice, car bombs slammed into his convoy. Another time, an attacker blew himself up at a funeral Jamal was attending for a fellow governor killed in another blast.

Jamal, 45, escaped harm each time, but he resigned late last year as governor of the eastern province of Khost and moved his family to Canada—a victory for the Taliban and its campaign to intimidate and assassinate Afghan officials.

Assassinations have intensified this year, with more than 100 officials and pro-government tribal elders attacked—half of them fatally. Echoing a strategy of insurgents in Iraq, such killings sow fear, undermine the already weak government and make it difficult to fill official posts with educated and competent Afghans.

"The Taliban know that if you kill one guy in the government, it discourages another 10 from being in that job," said Jamal, who returned to Kabul this year to work for President Hamid Karzai's re-election.

Rescuers search for survivors in Bhutan quake

GAUHATI, India (AP)—Rescue workers fanned out across eastern Bhutan on Tuesday, one day after an earthquake shook the tiny, isolated Himalayan nation and killed at least 12 people, officials and a state-run daily said.

The 6.3-magnitude afternoon earthquake damaged nearly 200 homes, monuments, monasteries, government offices and schools in a little populated eastern region of the country, state-run Kuensel newspaper reported. At least 15 people also were injured. The quake also cracked buildings and terrified residents in Gauhati, the capital of India's neighboring Assam state.

Thousands of Bhutanese spent the night out in the open and landslides created roadblocks in many parts of the worst-hit districts of Munggar and Trashigang, the newspaper said.

The tremor "made the surrounding hills look like they were throwing up dust," the daily quoted Sangay Tenzin, a resident, as saying. "The road was suddenly filled with boulders and mud."

Seven aftershocks further terrified residents.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Mystery of China VP's military appointment deepens

BEIJING (AP)—The mystery surrounding the expected appointment of China's vice president to a powerful military commission deepened Tuesday, with a leading Communist scholar saying the matter wasn't even on the agenda at last week's annual meeting of the party's policy-setting Central Committee. Xi Jinping, 56, had been widely expected to receive a position on the Central Military Commission at the conclave, in what would be a sign that he remains the leading contender to eventually succeed President Hu Jintao, 66. However, the meeting broke up with no mention of a possible Xi appointment, and speculation has since swirled over whether he would receive the post, or when.

Girls school attacked in troubled NW Pakistan

PESHAWAR, Pakistan (AP)—Suspected Islamist militants blew up a girls school close to the main city in northwestern Pakistan on Tuesday, police said. The school was empty at the time of the blast and no one was injured. A timed explosive device is believed to have caused the explosion that badly damaged the school on the outskirts of Peshawar, police officer Hamdullah Khan said. Al-Qaida and Taliban militants hold sway across much of northwest Pakistan near the border with Afghanistan and have often targeted girls schools in both countries because they believe that women should not be educated.

Thai teacher beats student as classmate films it

BANGKOK (AP)—A teacher in Thailand was captured on film beating a 14-year-old student and bashing his head against a blackboard, sparking national outrage and pledges Tuesday from education officials to crack down on corporal punishment in classrooms. The 50-second clip, filmed by a classmate using a mobile phone, was broadcast Monday on a nationally televised morning news program. "Are you really going to stop!" the male teacher shouted at the student, gripping the boy's neck in a choke hold and whacking his head repeatedly, according to the footage obtained by The Associated Press.

World

Iranian leader says he'll seek leniency for hikers

NEW YORK (AP)—Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad said Tuesday in an Associated Press interview that he will seek leniency for three American hikers who strayed across the Iranian border, and he urged President Barack Obama to see Iran as a potential friend.

The Iranian leader also said he expects "free and open" discussion of nuclear issues at a meeting next week with six world powers, but stressed that his country would not negotiate on its own nuclear plans. He sought to open a wider nuclear dialogue with the West, and said the onus should be on the United States and other major nuclear powers to give up their weapons and to expand opportunities for all countries to make peaceful use of nuclear power.

He dismissed last week's U.S. shift away from a planned long-range missile shield in Europe, meant to guard against an Iranian strike, as "a respectful way of buying out" Russian objections.

"I heard Mr. Obama saying the next threat is Iran. Iran is an opportunity for everyone," Ahmadinejad said.

The Iranian leader's remarks on those and other issues in an hour-long interview at his New York hotel, just hours after he arrived in the U.S., appeared designed to present his country as open to a broad international dialogue and to soften Iran's image as a rogue nation bent on spreading its Islamic revolution.

The Iranian leader is in New York to address the United Nations General Assembly on Wednesday. Obama is also speaking Wednesday.

Ahmadinejad remained soft-spoken and almost completely still in his chair as he politely fielded questions on a wide range of controversies rankling Iran's relationship with the West.

Analysis: Time grows short for climate deal

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—The man from the middle of the Indian Ocean, from one of the tiniest of nations, told his fellow presidents he knew "you are not really listening."

But a desperate Mohammed Nasheed of the Maldives, a scattering of islands amid the rising seas of global warming, took to the podium nonetheless at Tuesday's U.N. climate summit to urge his global neighbors, after "20 years of complacency," to "seize the historic opportunity that sits at the end of the road to Copenhagen."

That opportunity in Copenhagen, at a pivotal negotiating conference this December, is a chance to forge a comprehensive new accord to combat climate change. But increasingly Nasheed's road seems likely to stretch beyond the Danish capital, and beyond 2009, as world governments grapple with this immensely complex and volatile issue.

Some 100 heads of state and government took part in the one-day summit, the largest ever to deal with global warming.

They heard from Nasheed and leaders of other states threatened with flooding, drought and other expected impacts of a warming world. "If things go as usual, we will not live. We will die," the Maldivian said of his low-lying islands, a nation of 300,000 people.

Deposed Honduran president holed up in embassy

TEGUCIGALPA, Honduras (AP)—Baton-wielding soldiers used tear gas and water cannons to chase away thousands who demonstrated outside the Brazilian Embassy on Tuesday, leaving deposed President Manuel Zelaya and 70 friends and relatives trapped inside without water, electricity or phones.

"We know we are in danger," Zelaya said during interviews with various media outlets. "We are ready to risk everything, to sacrifice."

Heavily armed soldiers stood guard on neighboring rooftops and helicopters buzzed overhead.

Zelaya, forced out of his country at gunpoint on June 28, triumphantly popped up in the capital Monday, telling captivated supporters that after three months of international exile and a secretive 15-hour cross-country journey, he was ready to lead again.

Interim President Roberto Micheletti's response was terse: Initially he said Zelaya was lying about being back. Then after Zelaya appeared on national television, Micheletti pressed Brazil to hand him over under a warrant issued by the Supreme Court charging treason and abuse of authority.

Some officials suggested even Brazil's embassy would be no haven for the ousted leader.

"The inviolability of a diplomatic mission does not imply the protection of delinquents or fugitives from justice," said Micheletti's foreign ministry adviser, Mario Fortinthe.

WORLD BRIEFS

Bulgarian diplomat wins UNESCO race

PARIS (AP)—A Bulgarian diplomat on Tuesday became the first woman to lead the U.N.'s agency for culture and education, beating out a controversial Egyptian candidate whose one-time threat to burn Israeli books had galvanized opposition. Irina Bokova, 57, defeated Egyptian Culture Minister Farouk Hosny after a suspenseful and drawn-out race, sealing victory in the fifth round of balloting at the organization's Paris headquarters. The vote among UNESCO board members was 31 to 27. The race was tight and closely watched, with a flurry of secretive diplomatic efforts between each round, allegations of fraud and an uproar over Hosny's candidacy.

Shiite financier investments embarrasses Hezbollah

TOURA, Lebanon (AP)—A Mideast version of the Bernie Madoff scandal is threatening to tarnish Hezbollah's reputation in Lebanon for being incorruptible, and the powerful Shiite militant movement faces calls to bail out small investors to keep its position from being undercut. Hundreds of Lebanese sold land or drained their retirement savings and handed over hundreds of millions of dollars to Salah Ezzedine, a Shiite businessman with connections to Hezbollah. The anti-Israeli Hezbollah is on a U.S. list of terrorist organizations and maintains the strongest military force in Lebanon. For its Shiite followers, however, it is seen as a trusted quasi-government that provides social services and aid. The group gets substantial funding from Iran and paid out millions to rebuild the Shiite heartland in south Lebanon after a devastating 2006 war with Israel.

French police bulldoze immigrant camp near Calais

CALAIS, France (AP)—French police razed a squalid camp used by illegal immigrants in scrubland near the English Channel port of Calais on Tuesday, using backhoes and buzz saws to clear away the precarious dwellings of a fragile population, mostly Afghan minors, who were led away stunned and sometimes sobbing. The destruction of the site—known as "the Jungle"—ends the migrants' dreams of a new life across the Channel in Britain but signifies what France hopes will be a new era in European immigration control. People who lived there tried night after night to sneak across the Channel. "The law of the jungle cannot last eternally," said Immigration Minister Eric Besson, who ordered the destruction of what he called "a lawless zone where smugglers reign."

Environment

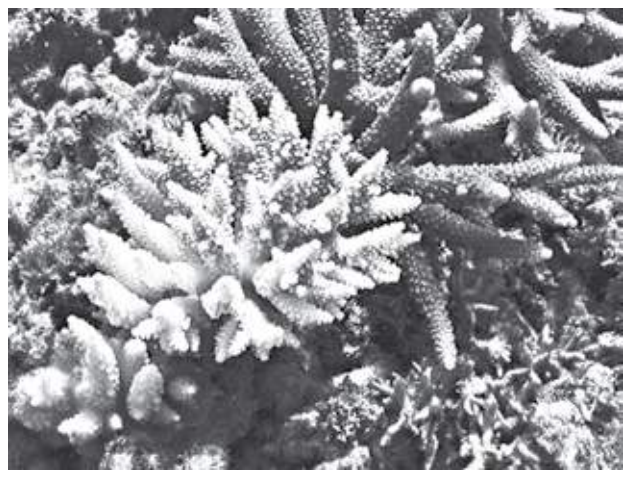
Coral bleaching response plan underway, public participation sought

SAIPAN—Rising sea temperatures—that impair the health of the CNMI's corals by causing them to lose their color in an event known as coral bleaching—may be increasing in frequency.

During a bleaching event, the symbiotic algae (dinoflagellates known as zooxanthellae) that give corals their vibrant colors and provide them food, disappear from the coral tissue. This loss, which causes the corals to turn white, makes recovery difficult and often leads to their death.

Since 2000, different levels of bleaching have been seen throughout the CNMI. In some cases bleaching has been localized to certain places, and in other extreme instances it has influenced vast expanses of live coral. As climate change continues to happen, more studies are needed to help us better understand why some corals recover better than others, because these corals are key to the long-term persistence of our healthy reefs.

Live staghorn before bleaching.



Live staghorn during bleaching.

While bleaching does not always mean widespread damage to coral reefs, resource managers are concerned about the long-term damage that losing a lot of coral could cause to reef ecosystems, food resources, tourism, and recreational uses.

Based on satellite sea surface temperature monitors, the CNMI and Guam have recently been put on "bleaching watch," which is the earliest warning that water temperatures are warm enough to promote bleaching. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration collect this data and make it available online (www.osdpd.noaa.gov/ml/ocean/cb/hotspots.html).

The CNMI Coral Reef Working group—consisting of managers and scientists—went to a reef resiliency workshop in Guam in late August. From that workshop they have started to create a plan to respond to, and better understand, bleaching events.

These plans include designating a coral bleaching coordinator, prioritizing monitoring areas, communicating with the public and adopting a set of survey methods to monitor bleaching. Additional resources are needed to fulfill monitoring needs.

The public can help support these efforts by reporting anything that looks like coral bleaching. A downloadable form may be found on the CNMI Coral Reef Initiative Web site at http://www.cnmicoralreef.net/biosearch/biosearch.htm and turn it into the Coastal Resources Management Office. Reports of any potential bleaching events may also be emailed to David Benavente at d_benavente20@hotmail.com or calling 664-8300. ***(PR)***

Dead staghorn after bleaching.

Mooring buoys: Protecting fisheries habitat and coral reefs at CNMI dive sites

By The Coastal Resources Management Office

Everyday, the reefs of the CNMI help to put food on tables and protect valuable coastal land. These underwater structures, and the ecosystems they support, provide superb habitat for the CNMI's fish to grow and reproduce, provide endless recreational opportunities, and help protect our hotels and beaches from being washed away by the ocean. But coral reefs are not indestructible and they can easily be damaged. One way you can help avoid damaging corals and ensure that this invaluable resource is around for years to come is to make use of the CNMI's mooring buoys.

Fact: Although coral reefs cover less than 1% of the earth's surface, they are home to 25% of all marine fish species.

Fact: 500 million people rely on coral reefs for their food and livelihoods.

Fact: Coral reefs form natural barriers that protect nearby shorelines from the eroding forces of the sea, thereby protecting coastal dwellings, agricultural land, and beaches.

Source: The Nature Conservancy

What are mooring buoys?

Anchoring a boat can cause disturbance or damage to the marine environment, regardless of how carefully it is done. Mooring buoys are for the public's use and are placed at locations throughout the CNMI to help preserve the fragile coral reef ecosystem by reducing anchor damage at frequently visited coral reef sites. They also are a faster and more convenient way to secure your boat as compared to the process of anchoring.

What does a mooring buoy look like?

At the moment, a variety of recycled and commercial buoys are used for moorings at popular dive and snorkel sites. Commercial mooring buoys are hard, white plastic spheres about 18" in diameter with blue reflective stripe around the middle.

Image based on http://www.unesco.org/csi/pub/source/ero37.gif

How do I use a mooring buoy?

1. Buoys are available on a first come, first served basis.

2. Smaller boats are encouraged to tie off to one another, thereby allowing larger vessels access to buoys. Remember, the larger the vessel, the more potential damage to the coral (if an anchor is used).

3. Use caution and idle speed (no wake) when approaching the buoy. Watch carefully for divers, swimmers and snorkelers.

4. To secure your boat to a mooring buoy, pick up the floating line and pass your bow line through the loop. Secure both ends of your bow line to your bow cleat. DO NOT put the loop around your cleat. This increases the wear on the mooring system and increases the likelihood of pulling the mooring anchor free and of damaging your boat. In rough weather or for larger boats, increase the length of your line. A good rule to remember is: if the buoy is pulled underwater, you must let out extra scope.

5. Inspect the mooring buoy your boat is tied to, you are still responsible for your vessel. Dive or snorkel the mooring line to be certain the mooring is holding. Note: CNMI government assumes no liability for the use of the mooring buoys

Please report any problems, such as broken or frayed lines to the Coastal Resources Management Office (670)664-8300.

What if a mooring buoy is not available?

When anchoring near reefs, place your anchor in clean sandy areas downwind from the reef. This will keep the anchor line from being dragged across the reef. Placing an anchor in the reef can cause great damage to the reef and could also result in a substantial fine. Use five to seven times the length of rope as the depth of the water; in rough seas use more line. Finally, snorkel or dive to check that the anchor and line are secure and not touching any coral**.**

Remember, it is illegal to anchor in Marine Protected Areas in CNMI.

The Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands government assumes no liability for the use of the mooring buoys.

Obama, China vow urgent action on climate change

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—President Barack Obama and Chinese President Hu Jintao each vowed urgent action Tuesday to cool an overheating planet, even as prospects dimmed for a full treaty by the end of the year.

The world's two biggest greenhouse-gas polluting nations were the focus at the U.N.'s unprecedented daylong climate change summit, which drew more than 50 presidents and 35 prime ministers, along with many environment ministers and at least one prince.

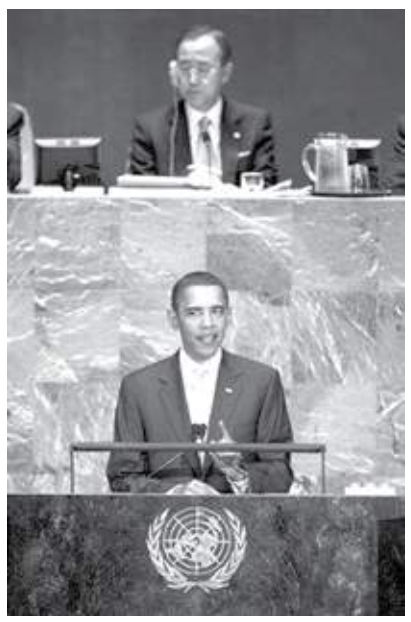
U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon opened the gathering with an appeal to leaders to set aside national interests and think about the future of the globe—and a rebuke for their foot-dragging thus far.

"The climate negotiations are proceeding at glacial speed. The world's glaciers are now melting faster than human progress to protect them—and us," the U.N. chief said.

Failure to reach a new international pact on climate change "would be morally inexcusable, economically shortsighted and politically unwise," Ban warned. "The science demands it. The world economy needs it."

At the end of the summit, however, Ban and Danish Prime Minister Lars Loekke Rasmussen, who will host the treaty talks, said they were encouraged at the prospects. "This feeling of political momentum—that was very strong," said Loekke Rasmussen.

Tuesday's U.N. gathering and the G-20 summit in Pittsburgh this week are seen as an attempt to pressure rich nations to commit to a global climate treaty at Copenhagen, Denmark, in December, and to pay for poorer nations to burn less coal and preserve their forests.



AP

U.S. President Barack Obama addresses the Summit on Climate Change, Tuesday, Sept. 22, 2009, as U.N. Secretary General Ban Ki-moon listens at the United Nations.

With a mere 76 days to go before the pivotal conference, it appeared an interim agreement might be the most that could be expected in December, leaving difficult details for later talks.

"We are on the path to failure if we continue to act as we have," French President Nicolas Sarkozy cautioned.

Much attention was fixed on Obama's first U.N. speech, in which he pledged the United States is "determined to act."

"The threat from climate change is serious, it is urgent, and it is growing," Obama said, after receiving loud applause. "And the time we have to reverse this tide is running out."

But while Obama campaigned for the presidency vowing to push through stringent cuts in U.S. emissions, he has run up against stiff resistance among Republicans, and the Senate most likely won't have written climate legislation until after the Copenhagen meeting.

Life & Style

Sheriff: Suspect says God led him to Jewel's ranch

FORT WORTH, Texas (AP)—A man accused of stalking singer-songwriter Jewel at her rural Texas ranch said he was on a mission from God, authorities said Tuesday.

Michael Lawrence Kozelka of Townsend, Wis., was arrested last week after he went two consecutive days to the 2,000-acre Stephenville ranch owned by Jewel's husband, rodeo champion Ty Murray, said Erath County Sheriff Tommy Bryant.

After Kozelka was found on the ranch Sept. 14, the landowner warned him not to return, Bryant said. But on Sept. 15 Kozelka was found at the main house with a pocket knife in his clothing and a dog with him, although he did not resist arrest after deputies were called, Bryant said.

"He was not aggressive and was not mad," Bryant told The Associated Press on Tuesday. "He just said he was on a mission from God, that God told him to come to Stephenville and led him to this ranch."

Bryant declined to say what Kozelka may have said about Jewel or her husband, and it's unclear if either was home at the time.

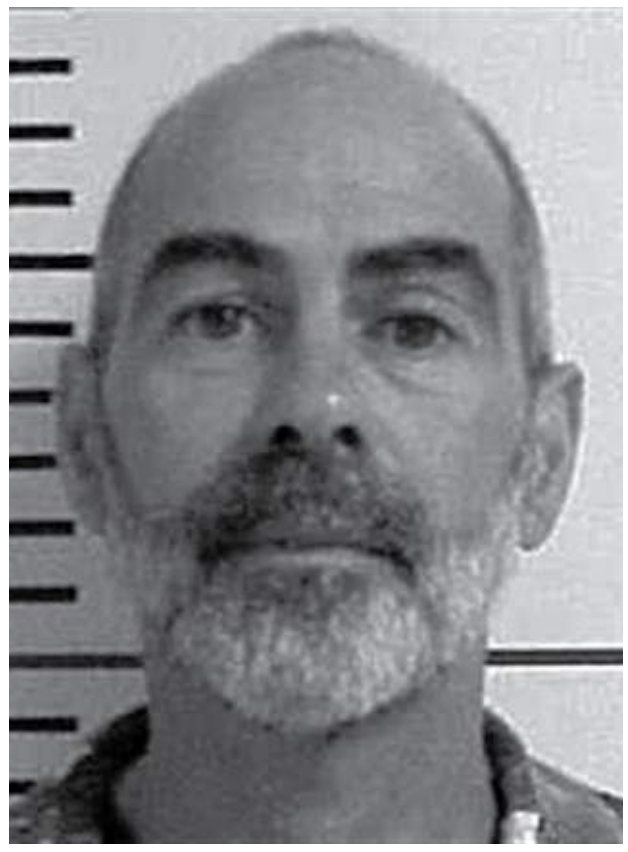
Kozelka, 50, was charged with stalking, a felony that carries a maximum 10-year jail sentence, according to jail records.

He has been jailed in Stephenville, about 75 miles southwest of Fort Worth, on $30,000 bond since his arrest.

His attorney, Michael Nicholls Pugh, declined to comment Tuesday, saying he was appointed to the case that afternoon and had not yet talked to Kozelka.

AP

In this Wednesday, Nov. 12, 2008 photo Singer Jewel arrives at the 42nd Annual CMA Awards in Nashville, Tenn.



AP

In this undated photo provided by the Erath County Sheriff's Department in Stephenville, Texas, Michael Lawrance Kozelka is shown.

Attempts to reach Murray, a nine-time world champion rodeo cowboy and past president of Professional Bull Riders, were unsuccessful Tuesday. A publicist for Jewel did not immediately offer a statement.

Vickie Pintsch, co-owner of Pintsch's Hardware in Townsend, Wis., said Kozelka lived in the area for years, working on construction and helping with repairs and odd jobs. Pintsch said she had not seen him for several months, although he visited her store occasionally.

"He was pleasant to talk to when he came into the store," Pintsch said.

Ted Bartels, parish council president at St. John's Lutheran Church in Townsend, which Kozelka attended until about a year ago, said Kozelka stopped going there after he got up in front of the church and voiced complaints about the education and the music director. According to Bartels, Kozelka said God compelled him to speak.

"I tried not to listen. I was embarrassed for him," Bartels said. "He was a troubled man."

Townsend, a town of about 1,000 people, is about 80 miles northwest of Green Bay.

According to Oconto County Circuit Court online records in Wisconsin, Citizens Bank foreclosed on property Kozelka owned in November and a sheriff's sale was conducted in August.

William Foshag, an attorney for the bank, did not immediately return a telephone message Tuesday.

Bryant said Murray and Jewel were concerned about publicity over the incident. According to the incident and arrest reports obtained by The AP under the Texas Public Information Act, a pseudonym is used for Jewel, and few details are provided about what happened that day.

The couple have lived quietly for years on the ranch near Stephenville, a dairy community. Jewel, who was born Jewel Kilcher, is working on a second country album—the first, "Perfectly Clear," debuted at No. 1 on Billboard's charts last year—as well as a second book of poetry.

The couple joined the cast of ABC's "Dancing With the Stars" last spring, but injuries during training forced Jewel to drop out before the competition began.

Photogs, agency sue Patriots' QB Tom Brady

AP

In this May 4, 2009 file photo, Tom Brady and Gisele Bundchen arrive at the Metropolitan Museum of Art's Costume Institute Gala in New York.

NEW YORK (AP)—Two photographers sued New England Patriots quarterback Tom Brady and supermodel Gisele Bundchen for $1 million Tuesday, saying they were shot at during a post-wedding party in Costa Rica.

The lawsuit filed in U.S. District Court in Manhattan alleged that the photographers, though the shot didn't hit them, suffered physical and mental harm from the attack during a celebration in early April at Bundchen's holiday home.

It said Brady and Bundchen hired improperly trained security guards for the April party, two months after their wedding, even though they had to know their activities were a press magnet.

AFP photographer Yuri Cortez and photographer Rolando Aviles of Costa Rican national daily newspaper Al Dia say Bundchen's bodyguards narrowly missed their heads when the guards shot at their car after they refused to give up their cameras and memory cards.

No one was struck by the bullets, but the lawsuit said Cortez and Aviles suffered physical injuries and mental anguish that continues. The lawsuit said neither of them were paparazzi.

The lawsuit said AFP is one of the world's largest and most respected international press agencies with 110 bureaus worldwide. It said it incurred great expense to send Cortez, a staff photographer, to Costa Rica.

Don Yee, Brady's agent and attorney, declined comment, saying he had not yet seen the court papers. Bundchen publicist Alison Levy said she does not comment on her client's personal life.

The lawsuit said the photographers received authorization from a neighbor of Bundchen to go on their property, where they "discreetly photographed" the party.

It said the photographers were returning to their rented car when a bodyguard approached them "in a menacing and threatening manner," demanding Cortez's camera and memory cards. Aviles ran off while Cortez tried to run but was grabbed by the bodyguard and immobilized with his arm behind his back, the lawsuit said.

The lawsuit said Cortez was told that members of the Bundchen-Brady family wanted to talk to Cortez. It said he then picked up Aviles and drove to Bundchen's residence, where more men demanded his memory cards and one bodyguard tried to enter his car to remove cameras.

The photographers, both residents of Costa Rica, tried to drive away when they spotted a drawn gun in the hands of one bodyguard, the lawsuit said.

At that moment, a bodyguard fired the gun, shattering the rear window of the sports utility vehicle with a bullet that then hit the front windshield and ricocheted off it into the driver's seat, the lawsuit said.

"The bullet narrowly missed striking the heads of Cortez and Aviles," the lawsuit said.

Arguments start in Travolta extortion trial

NASSAU, Bahamas (AP)—Prosecutors said Tuesday that a paramedic who treated John Travolta's son shortly before he died in the Bahamas threatened to release private information unless the movie star paid $25 million.

Travolta is among those expected to take the stand during the trial, but he did not appear in the courtroom during the first day of testimony in the island chain off the Florida coast.

"Contact was made with certain persons to communicate a threat to John Travolta," Bernard Turner, chief prosecutor in the Bahamas, said in his opening argument.

Ambulance driver Tarino Lightbourne and former Bahamas senator Pleasant Bridgewater, a co-defendant who allegedly acted as an intermediary, have pleaded innocent to extortion charges.

AP

This combo pictures shows Former Bahamas' Sen. Pleasant Bridgewater, right, and paramedic Tarino Lightbourne upon their arrival to court in Nassau, Monday, Sept. 21, 2009.

Defense lawyers had not yet presented opening arguments.

Police say the alleged scheme involved a document related to the treatment of Jett Travolta, a chronically ill teenager who died Jan. 2 following a seizure at a family vacation home on Grand Bahama island. It would have released emergency responders from liability if the family refused an ambulance but police said that did not happen.

The first trial witness, police inspector Andrew Wells, testified that after 16-year-old Jett was loaded into an ambulance, Lightbourne told him that Travolta wanted his son taken directly to the local airport instead of the hospital. Wells said Travolta signed a release form.

It was unclear why Jett Travolta was not taken to the airport and why the defendants allegedly believed the actor would pay to keep the document secret.

Another paramedic, Derrex Rolle, testified Tuesday that Jett was unresponsive and showed no signs of life when he arrived at the actor's home inside a resort community.

Review: Sheen shines in the gritty `Damned United'

LOS ANGELES (AP)—You don't have to be a soccer expert, or even know all that much about the sport, to get sucked into the competing personalities and personal dramas of "The Damned United."

Sure, it probably helps in terms of appreciating some of the details and nuances, especially if you're a fan of the British football depicted here. But director Tom Hooper doesn't actually include very much action on the field: "The Damned United" is more about the larger-than-life figures behind the scenes, mainly Brian Clough, the real-life manager of Leeds United for a brief and tumultuous period in 1974.

And you don't even have to know who Clough was to be interested in him. As he did with his brilliant and underappreciated supporting work as Tony Blair in "The Queen" and David Frost "Frost/Nixon," Michael Sheen brings this cocky coach vividly to life. It is such a joy to see him grab hold of a starring role like this, and to see him work once again with screenwriter Peter Morgan, who wrote those earlier films.

Morgan just has an uncanny knack for taking powerful and polarizing leaders and making us see them in a totally new and humanistic light. He did it with Queen Elizabeth II, Richard Nixon and, in "The Last King of Scotland," Idi Amin. Clough won't be nearly as well-known to American audiences but Morgan uncovers his foibles, his vulnerability, which should make him compelling to anyone.

In this film publicity image released by Sony Pictures Classics, Michael Sheen portrays Brian Clough in a scene from, "The Damned United."

AP

Based on David Peace's 2006 novel, "The Damned United" jumps back and forth between Clough's hiring as the new Leeds coach, following the departure of beloved manager Don Revie (Colm Meaney) for the English national team, and the unlikely rise Clough enjoyed with perennial cellar-dwellers, which earned him this esteemed gig.

Under Revie's reign, Leeds United dominated; think of the New York Yankees in the 1990s. Once the brash, young Clough takes over the job, he insists on changing the players and their routines, seemingly to put his own arbitrary stamp on them and break them of their loyalty to Revie, whom he'd long considered a rival.

Lasorda portrait installed at Smithsonian

AP

Baseball Hall of Famer Tommy Lasorda, of the Los Angeles Dodger, stands next to his portrait at the Smithsonian's National Portrait Gallery in Washington, Tuesday, Sept. 22, 2009.

WASHINGTON (AP)—The National Portrait Gallery has installed a painting of Hall of Fame manager Tommy Lasorda on his 82nd birthday.

The life-sized portrait, measuring 60 inches by 50 inches, was installed Tuesday at the Smithsonian Institution. It commemorates Lasorda's long career with the Los Angeles Dodgers and goes on view at the start of a three-game series between the Dodgers and Washington Nationals in the nation's capital.

The portrait will be on view in the "New Arrivals" gallery through Nov. 15. The painting by Everett Raymond Kinstler will be part of the collection of baseball-related art.

Lasorda managed the Dodgers for 20 seasons, leading them to eight division titles, four National League pennants and World Series titles in 1981 and '88.

New book delves into so-called Craigslist killing

BOSTON (AP)—A new book about a man accused of killing a masseuse he met through Craigslist includes an account by a Las Vegas woman allegedly robbed at gunpoint by him.

"Seven Days of Rage: The Deadly Crime Spree of the Craigslist Killer," was written about Philip Markoff by Boston Globe reporter Maria Cramer and Paul LaRosa, a producer for the CBS newsmagazine "48 Hours."

Trisha Leffler spoke in the book and a Sept. 19 "48 Hours Mystery" broadcast about her encounter at a Boston hotel with a man who responded to an ad she posted in the erotic-services section of Craigslist.

Leffler says the man tied up her up in her room, robbed her and took two pairs of her underwear.

Markoff has pleaded not guilty to killing Julissa Brisman of New York at another Boston hotel.

Boston orchestra to honor retiring harpist

BOSTON (AP)—Opening night for the Boston Symphony Orchestra will feature a tribute to retiring harpist Ann Hobson Pilot, the orchestra's first and only African-American woman.

Hobson Pilot retired this summer after 40 years with the orchestra. But she will return to the stage at Symphony Hall Wednesday night as a soloist in the world premier of composer John Williams' "On Willows and Birches."

The orchestra says Williams wrote the piece as a tribute to Hobson Pilot, who's considered among the top harp players of her time.

Hobson Pilot also will perform concerts next month at Symphony Hall and New York City's Carnegie Hall. The Philadelphia native told The Boston Globe that she never tried to make a political statement, instead showing "that playing music well had nothing to do with color."

Death and Funeral Announcement

†LUCIA CASTRO BARCINAS

(Chia'/Amma)

Of Songsong Village, Rota, was called to her eternal rest in the grace of our Lord on Saturday, September 19, 2009, 8:00 a.m., at the Commonwealth Health Center, at the age of 69.

In her new life, she now joins her love ones who have gone before her:
Parents: *†Jesus Villagomez Castro & †Ana Taimanao Castro*
Parents-in-law: *†Antonio Blanco Barcinas & †Regina Songsong Barcinas*
Sisters, and In-Laws: *†Dolores C. & †Juan Q. Muna, †Maria C. & †Domingo Atalig, †Martha T. Castro, †Veronica T. Manglona, †Francisco Taimanao, †Juan S. Barcinas, †Bienvinido S. Barcinas, †Rosario S. Barcinas, and †Tito S. Barcinas*
Maternal Aunt: *†Martha B. Sablan*

Lucia's compassion and wonderful sense of humor are being lovingly celebrated by her:

Husband: Abel Songsong Barcinas

Children, Grandchildren, and Great Grandchildren:
Ricardo C. and Clarita A. Barcinas
Clint A. Barcinas and Lynn B. Duenas
Ricalyn A. Barcinas and Victorino Mendiola
Rianalyn A. Barcinas and Joe Lizama (Ellie Juanee, Floren Kassil)
Chuck A. Barcinas
Elizabeth C. Barcinas and Pete S. Hocog
Abel B. Hocog
Flavian B. Hocog and Antonio Magofna
Lucille B. Hocog and Gerald A. Ogo
Peter B. Hocog
Patricia B. and Jose T. Calvo
Joeweda and John Diaz (Jeremiah, Clara Grace)
Nicolas and Doris T. Calvo (Concia Deuana)
Margarita C. Barcinas and Michael T. King
Michaela Marie B. King
Micca Ana B. King
Edward C. and Delfina M. Barcinas
Lucretia M. Barcinas
Edward M. Barcinas, Jr.
Edmund M. Barcinas
Luisa C. Barcinas and Erlyn Quinto
Martha C. Barcinas and Mark A. Hocog
Marnecia Hope B. Hocog
Marco Edward B. Hocog
Regina C. Barcinas

Reared Daughters: *Shirley Villanueva and Regina Quiming*
Special Friend: *Joaquin and †Monica Lizama & Children*
Caretakers: *Benita Parallag and Edna Saclayan*
Sisters and In-Law: *Rita C. and Felix Flawau & Children, Rosa A. Taitano & Children*
Brother and Sisters, In-Laws: *Florence S. Barcinas & Children, Ramon S. Barcinas and Matilde Takai & Children, Emmy Barcinas & Children, Maria Barcinas & Children, Francisca M. Barcinas & Children.*

She is additionally survived by those she lovingly cared for, numerous nieces, nephews, cousins, godchildren, family and friends.

Holy rosary is being prayed at 7:00 p.m., at Kristo Rai Church, Saipan and at 8:00 p.m., at her residence in Annex-F, Songsong Village, Rota.

Memorial services and viewing on Saipan will be on Friday, September 25. Her remains will be escorted from Nuestra Señora dela Paz at 7:30 a.m. to Kristo Rai Church. Memorial Mass will be celebrated at 10:00 a.m.

On Sunday, September 27, 2009, her remains will be escorted from Rota Health Center at 3:00 p.m. to her residence. Responso Service will be at 3:30 p.m. followed by Holy Rosary. The Mass of Christian Burial will be on Monday, September 28, 2009, 10:00 a.m., at the San Francisco De Borja Church. Interment Service will follow at the San Jose Cemetery, Songsong Village, Rota.

Your prayers and presence are greatly appreciated.

Abel S. Barcinas, Children & Family

Lawyer disputes tryst between Anna Nicole, doctor

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The attorney for a doctor who treated the late model Anna Nicole Smith says Dr. Sandeep Kapoor is openly gay and that she is outraged by claims in search warrant affidavits that he had a sexual relationship with Smith.

Attorney Ellyn Garafalo told The Associated Press on Tuesday that Kapoor never had a sexual or social relationship with his patient, and a picture of them together which is cited in the affidavits was taken at a gay pride celebration they both attended.

"These search warrant affidavits are based on insufficient information and they are wrong in material respects," Garafalo said in an interview with the AP. "The prime example is that Dr. Kapoor is openly gay and never slept with Anna Nicole Smith or any other woman"

A series of recently unsealed search warrants refers to a video cassette clip shown on the TV show "Inside Edition."

Those documents say the clip "showed Dr. Kapoor and Anna Nicole Smith in a reclined position in a nightclub-type setting. Dr. Kapoor had his shirt off, his arms was around Anna Nicole Smith, and he was kissing and nuzzling Anna Nicole Smith's neck." They quote a consultant to the state medical board as saying the contact on the video "went beyond any therapeutic touching and appeared sexual in nature."

AP

This Thursday March 12, 2009 image provided by the Whittier, Calif. Police Department shows Dr. Sandeep Kapoor.

Garafalo said the doctor and patient encountered each other in a bar after a gay pride parade, but did not have an ongoing social relationship.

Garafalo said the mistaken interpretation of the photo is an example of errors that permeated the decision to charge Kapoor with illegally providing Smith with controlled drugs. She said evidence in the case will exonerate Kapoor.

District attorney spokeswoman Sandi Gibbons declined comment saying, "The case has not yet gone to preliminary hearing and it would be inappropriate for us to be making comments outside court."

Another defendant, psychiatrist Khristine Eroshevich, also is accused of an improper sexual relationship with the former Playboy model based on photographs found on a computer of the two women naked together in a bathtub "in various intimate embraces."

Eroshevich's lawyer, Adam Braun, declined to comment directly on the pictures but said that the relationship between Smith and the psychiatrist began as one of friendship and evolved into a patient-doctor relationship. He said they were next door neighbors before Smith moved to the Bahamas.

The complaint against Kapoor and Eroshevich also names Smith's former attorney, Howard K. Stern, as conspiring with the doctors to provide illegal drugs to Smith.

The search warrant affidavits suggest Stern put his name on prescriptions for drugs that were given to Smith, and claim that a total of 44 different medications were prescribed for Smith under a number of other names, including Stern's.

Smith died in Feb. 8, 2007 in Florida of "acute combined drug intoxication" with the autopsy showing drugs that caused her death were chloral hydrate combined with Benadryl, clonazepam, diazepam and lorazepam. She had also been prescribed high doses of Methadone and other drugs.

Affidavits filed with the search warrants in 2007 depicted Eroshovich as prescribing ever-increasing doses of controlled substances including powerful sleep medications and antidepressants. A pharmacist who was asked to fill prescriptions transmitted for Eroshevich by Kapoor refused the request and said he thought, "They are going to kill her with this."

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All About Steve

Friday		4:20	7:15	9:55
Saturday	1:25	4:20	7:15	9:55
Sunday	1:25	4:20	7:15	
Mon thru Thurs		4:20	7:15	

Sandra Bullock, Bradley Cooper
Comedy • Rated PG 13

Synopsis
Mary Horowitz is a cruciverbalist–a crossword puzzle constructor. Her brain spins at warp speed with an endless stream of arcane information. She can come up with the perfect word–and dozens with the same meaning–at a moment's notice, but "normal" behavior eludes her. For Mary, nothing is typical, especially relationships. When she is set up on a blind date with handsome cable-news cameraman Steve, Mary thinks the chemistry is undeniable–that Steve is "the one." Steve, on the other hand, thinks Mary is crazy.

And I Love You So

Friday		4:25	7:20	9:30
Saturday	1:30	4:25	7:20	9:30
Sunday	1:30	4:25	7:20	
Mon thru Thurs		4:25	7:20	

Bea Alonzo, Derek Ramsay
Drama, Romance • NR

Synopsis
When Lara (Bea Alonzo) lost her husband of five months, she didn't think she could go on living, much less love again. Now, seven months later, Lara is still in mourning. Everytime a loved one died, someone else was there to cushion the blow. When her mother died when she was 14, it was her father. When her father followed six years later, there was the rest of the family. But when her husband died, no one could offer any consolation–not her siblings, nor her in-laws, not her friends. Not only was the love of her life, he had also become her life. It would have been better is she had died with him.

★ ★ ★

Whiteout

Friday		4:00	7:00	10:00
Saturday	1:00	4:00	7:00	10:00
Sunday	1:00	4:00	7:00	
Mon thru Thurs		4:00	7:00	

Kate Beckinsale, Gabriel Macht
Action, Thriller, Crime • Rated R

Synopsis
Carrie Stetko, the lone U.S. Marshal assigned to Antarctica, is investigating the continent's first murder, which draws her into a shocking mystery. Now, with only three days until winter, Carrie must solve the crime before Antarctica is plunged into darkness and she is stranded with the killer.

Sorority Row

Friday		4:05	7:10	9:50
Saturday	1:10	4:05	7:10	9:50
Sunday	1:10	4:05	7:10	
Mon thru Thurs		4:05	7:10	

Briana Evigan, Leah Pipes
Thriller, Horror, Remake • Rated R

The Time Traveler's Wife

Friday		4:10	7:05	9:35
Saturday	1:05	4:10	7:05	9:35
Sunday		4:10	7:05	
Mon thru Thurs		4:10	7:05	

Rachel McAdams, Eric Bana
Drama, Romance, Sci-Fi • Rated PG 13

Gamer

Friday		4:15	7:30	9:45
Saturday	1:15	4:15	7:30	9:45
Sunnday	1:15	4:15	7:30	
Mon thru Thurs		4:15	7:30	

Gerald Butler, Amber Valletta
Action, Thriller • Rated R

G.I. JOE

Friday		4:30	7:25	9:40
Saturday	1:20	4:30	7:25	9:40
Sunday	1:20	4:30	7:25	
Mon thru Thurs		4:30	7:25	

Dennis Quaid, Channing Tatum
War • Rated PG 13

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Actual people physically gather to talk Twitter

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Twitter was a trending topic Tuesday—and not just on Twitter.

Actual people were physically gathered at the Skirball Cultural Center for the two-day conference dedicated to the micro-blogging site. Company co-founder Biz Stone opened the conference with a 40-minute speech about the origins of Twitter and its goal to make a positive global impact, citing the site's importance in organizing political protests worldwide.

The Twitter Conference boasted big names Tuesday, including San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom and pro skateboarder Tony Hawk. The event's Twitter tag—(pound)140tc—was a trending topic by late afternoon.

Newsom, who spoke to conference guests via the Web telephone service Skype, said he is "trying to use Twitter and this technology to improve the governance of our city."

Hawk, meanwhile, took part in a panel on Twitter and celebrity with actors Tyrese Gibson and LeVar Burton and "Celebrity Rehab" host Dr. Drew Pinsky.

The skater, who famously posted a photo of himself skateboarding through the White House on his Twitter page, said he has "fully embraced" the site.

AP

Former professional wrestler The Iron Sheik, right, and comedians Loni Love, and Chris Hardwick pose together after speaking on a panel together during 140: The Twitter Conference LA in Los Angeles on Tuesday, Sept. 22, 2009.

"I'm a full nerd," he said. "I'm a professional skateboarder. I'm in the White House. I'm (going to) tweet that up for sure."

Rapper Chamillionaire and Curt Smith of Tears for Fears participated in a panel on how musicians can benefit from the site.

Smith said Twitter allows him to "speak directly to people and it's not being translated by an interviewer or by a record company." It's also a great tool to knock down rumors, Chamillionaire said: "You can get straight to the point."

Burton echoed those sentiments. "It's put my career back in my hands," he said.

Ultimately, the celebrities said the site is most valuable for brand building—and apparently the Parnassus Group agrees. The Washington-based company, which specializes in social media, put on the Twitter Conference even though Twitter is not among the clients it touts on its corporate Web site. Admission was $429.

The Twitter Conference continues through Wednesday.

Khloe Kardashian to wed Lamar Odom

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The Kardashians (kahr-DA'-shee-uhnz) are adding another family member: Lamar Odom (OH'-dum).

Khloe (KHLOH'-ee) Kardashian's spokeswoman said the reality TV starlet will marry the Los Angeles Lakers forward Sunday.

Kardashian, 25, appears with her family on "Keeping Up With the Kardashians." She and her sister Kourtney co-star in the E! spinoff show, "Kourtney and Khloe Take Miami." She also competed on "The Celebrity Apprentice" earlier this year.

Odom, 29, agreed to a four-year contract to stay with the Lakers this summer after helping the team win the franchise's 15th NBA championship in June. He has two children, daughter Destiny and son Lamar Jr., from a previous relationship. His other son, Jayden, was 7 months old when he died in his crib in 2006.

In this Sept. 9, 2009 file photo, Khloe Kardashian and Los Angeles Lakers basketball player Lamar Odom pose together at the premiere of the film "Whiteout" in Los Angeles.

AP

Beatles sell 2.25 million albums in 5 days

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Nearly 40 years after breaking up, The Beatles are still breaking records for album sales.

EMI Group PLC says consumers in North America, Japan and the U.K. bought more than 2.25 million copies of the Fab Four's re-mastered albums in the first five days after their Sept. 9 release.

Most of the records were broken for most simultaneous titles in the top-selling charts by a single artist.

On Billboard magazine's pop catalog chart, for example, the band had 16 titles in the top 50, including all 14 re-mastered CDs and two box sets.

The Beatles' original U.K. studio albums were re-mastered at Abbey Road Studios in London over four years and released to coincide with the sale of "The Beatles: Rock Band" on the Xbox 360, PlayStation 3 and Wii.

AP

In this Feb. 9, 1964 picture, The Beatles perform at the "Ed Sullivan Show," in New York. It was the band's first American appearance, and influenced other musicians future careers.

Eminem's music publisher takes Apple to court

DETROIT (AP)—Eminem's music publisher wants a bigger slice from Apple.

Eight Mile Style LLC and a co-plaintiff, Martin Affiliated LLC, are suing Apple Inc., claiming they never authorized the use of 93 songs in a downloadable format on Apple's popular iTunes service.

The non-jury trial is expected to start Thursday in the rapper's hometown of Detroit, unless a settlement is reached Wednesday with the help of U.S. Magistrate Judge Virginia Morgan.

Eight Mile also is suing Aftermath Records, which controls the recordings in question, saying it didn't have the right to make deals on digital downloads.

It's unclear from court documents just how much money is at stake, but the plaintiffs claim Apple wrongfully gained $2.5 million through iTunes downloads, including $466,915 from "Lose Yourself," Eminem's biggest hit from the hip-hop film "8 Mile." The publisher also believes it should get a share of Apple's profit from the sale of iPods.

Eight Mile also claims Aftermath wrongfully collected $4 million off Eminem's songs on iTunes.

Apple denies the allegations and says it has a valid agreement with Aftermath Records. Eight Mile has received royalties but says that doesn't mean it can't press ahead with a lawsuit.

AP

In this Sunday, Sept. 13, 2009 picture, Eminem accepts the "Best Hip Hop Video" award during the MTV Video Music Awards in New York. Eminem's music publisher wants a bigger slice from Apple.

Eight Mile says it still retains ownership, including copyright, of the compositions inside Eminem's recordings. If the case isn't settled, the trial before U.S. District Judge Anna Diggs Taylor will center on how to interpret contracts.

Eight Mile agreed in 1998 and 2003 that "Eminem would create master sound recordings embodying compositions, and that Aftermath would own those masters," Apple's attorneys said in a court filing.

"The parties also agreed that Aftermath and its distributors and licensees would 'have the exclusive right' to exploit the masters embodying the Eminem compositions 'in any and all forms of media now known or hereinafter developed,'" the lawyers said.

Howard Hertz, a lawyer for Eight Mile, declined to comment on the case Tuesday. A message seeking comment was left with Daniel Quick of the Apple/Aftermath legal team.

It's unknown if the rapper would attend a trial if there is one. Eminem, whose real name is Marshall Mathers, is not on the witness list.

The "acceptance of a single check containing mostly royalties for authorized uses, but also containing small and hidden royalties for unauthorized uses, cannot operate as a satisfaction of a claim," Eight Mile's lawyers said in a recent filing in federal court.

Sarah Michelle Gellar, husband welcome baby girl

LOS ANGELES (AP)—It's a girl for "Scooby-Doo" stars Sarah Michelle Gellar and Freddie Prinze Jr.

The couple named their newborn daughter Charlotte Grace Prinze. A spokeswoman for the actress said the baby was born Saturday.

It is the first child for the acting duo, who first met in 1997 while filming "I Know What You Did Last Summer" and later married in 2002.

FX's 'Damages' expands cast with Short, Scott

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Glenn Close, who won her second consecutive Emmy Award for FX's "Damages," is welcoming two new cast members to the legal drama.

Campbell Scott and Martin Short have signed on as regulars, joining Close, Rose Byrne and Tate Donovan, the network said Tuesday.

Lily Tomlin and Keith Carradine will make guest appearances on the series, which stars Close as a ruthless attorney. She won her second best drama series actress trophy at last weekend's Emmys.

Production on the third season of "Damages" starts Wednesday in New York. It debuts on FX in January.

Glenn Close poses with the award for best lead actress in a drama series for her work in "Damages" at the 61st Primetime Emmy Awards on Sunday, Sept. 20, 2009, in Los Angeles.

AP

Caregiver's grief began long before her husband's death

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: I am responding to "Alone But Happy in Canada" (July 12), who feels guilty because she feels relieved following the death of her husband from a long, difficult illness.

Everyone grieves differently, but I don't think grieving a loved one's loss BEFORE his or her death is uncommon. I've known several people who watched loved ones wither away into helpless, needy and miserable individuals. I can't think of one who didn't feel the same as "Alone But Happy."

I have begun referring to it as "grieve-as-you-go guilt." A person grieves through the decline and eventual demise of a beloved mate, and when she fails to feel sadness, she substitutes guilt where she believes her grief should be. But actually she has been grieving all along, and needs to acknowledge that fact. Only then will she be able to enjoy not only her clean house, but her clear conscience as well.

AZY IN WASHINGTON

DEAR AZY: You have keen insight. Other readers wrote wanting to offer reassurance to "Alone But Happy." Read on:

DEAR ABBY: Your answer to "Alone" was appreciated by all caregivers, I'm sure. Nobody knows, unless they have walked that particular path, how difficult and lonely it is to watch a spouse disappear over a long time, losing the history you share together, making hard decisions alone, and rebuilding an identity not tied to the past. Every morning brings a new bout of grief from the moment of wakening -- every day another day you don't want to face.

Keeping healthy and planning ahead for yourself, not as a caregiver but as a participant in the "real world," is the only way to maintain sanity sometimes. Though I love my husband dearly, I look forward to having a life again that is not centered on his disease. No one should be made to feel guilty for restarting life when he or she has given so much.

DAY AT A TIME

DEAR ABBY: I also lost my husband of 35 years just a month ago. He endured several years of health problems and as his caregiver, I, too, felt a great sense of relief with his passing. I do not, however, feel guilty about it.

I realize that I have been grieving for several years already, as I knew this time would be coming. In many ways it is as if I am in the final stage of the process even though my husband's death has only just occurred.

Our son put it best when he said at my husband's bedside, "I lost my dad several years ago, but my father died tonight." He, too, understands that his grief began a long time ago.

MOVING FORWARD

DEAR ABBY: Having to put another person's needs and wants before one's own can be very stressful. Not everyone is able to do that and stay pleasant and patient at all times. Fortunately, I found a local caregivers' support group. Our weekly meetings help us see that we are not alone in experiencing the trials and tribulations of family caregiving.

For those who are laboring to do their best for their sick or disabled loved ones, let me suggest they find a Senior Information and Assistance office in their area. Another resource is the National Family Caregivers Association (www.thefamilycaregiver.org; phone (800) 896-3650). These may be helpful in allowing caregivers mental and physical relief by connecting them with hourly in-home care services.

It is important that people experiencing this kind of stress get respite time to themselves, away from their care recipient, in order to be able to keep on helping them.

ONE OF THE MANY

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby – Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

YOU KNOW, SOMETIMES THE WORLD SEEMS LIKE A PRETTY MEAN PLACE.
THAT'S WHY ANIMALS ARE SO SOFT AND HUGGY.
...YEAH...
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9/24
WATTERSON

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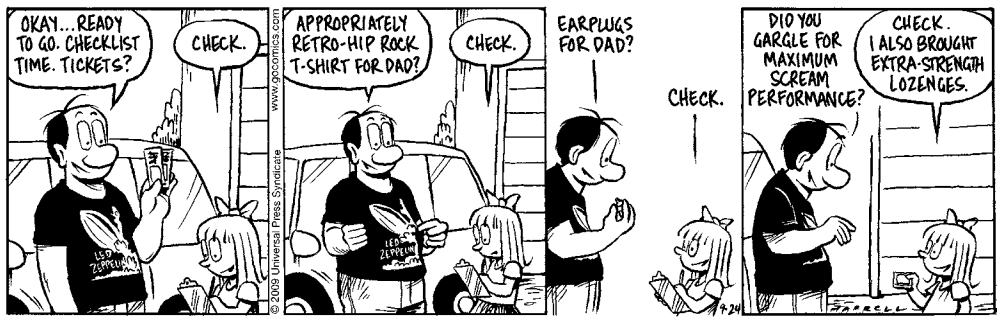

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

GUESS I'LL GO SEE WHAT'S ON TV.
HAVE YOU EVER NOTICED HOW SLOW ENO READS?
YEAH. I KNOW.
HE'S THE ONLY ONE I KNOW WHO HAS TO TAPE A BOOKMARK BETWEEN LENGTHY WORD BALLOONS.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Ballot dangler
5 Annoy
8 Puerto —
12 Jeans maker Strauss
13 French pronoun
14 Low pH
15 Cupid's alias
16 Favorite
17 Conked out
18 Melted-cheese dish
20 Talon
22 Chic, and then some
26 Assume for argument's sake
29 Layer
30 Slight amount
31 Author Turgenev
32 Bit of wordplay
33 Lascivious
34 Mai —
35 Branch
36 Briskly self-assured
37 "My fondest wishes"
40 Pulsate
41 Ceremony
45 Reed instrument
47 Menagerie
49 Capri, e.g.
50 Bank transaction
51 Conclusion
52 Trawler gear
53 They get connected
54 Shelter
55 Mardi —

DOWN
1 Staff leader
2 Medal earner
3 Shakespeare's river
4 Scorn
5 Urge onward
6 Shad product
7 Setting for Rachael Ray
8 Speeder spotter
9 It flows through the veins of the emotionless
10 Spy-novel org.
11 Peculiar
19 Last (Abbr.)
21 Dawson of football
23 Pollex
24 Stare stupidly
25 Vortex
26 Hummus holder
27 Elliptical
28 Regatta entry
32 Ballpark snack
33 Allowing
35 "Caught ya!"
36 Omega preceder
38 Adolescents
39 Wear away
42 Addict
43 Can. prov.
44 Minus
45 Antiquated
46 Greet the villain
48 Inseparable

Solution time: 25 mins.

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	L	O	U	I	S	E		I	R	O	N	Y
		E	N	D	E	D		N	A	P	A	
			G	E	T			G	E	E		

Yesterday's answer 9-24

1	2	3	4	■	5	6	7	■	8	9	10	11
12				■	13			■	14			
15				■	16			■	17			
18				19		■	20	21			■	■
■	■	■	22			23					24	25
26	27	28			■	29			■	30		
31				■	32			■	33			
34			■	35				36				
37			38				39			■	■	■
■	■	40				■	41			42	43	44
45	46			■	47	48		■	49			
50				■	51			■	52			
53				■	54			■	55			

STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Kyle Sullivan, 21; Spencer Treat Clark, 22; Erin Chambers, 30; Nia Vardalos, 47

Happy Birthday: Emotions will be difficult to control and the thought of change may not be something you relish but, the more adaptable you are, the further ahead you will be. This is a year to rethink and redo whatever hasn't worked in the past. Use your intelligence even if your emotions are trying to hold you back. Build a solid base with the knowledge you have gained from your experience. Your numbers are 4, 9, 12, 20, 23, 31, 44

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): You can't stop now. In fact you must organize so you don't fall behind. Good things are heading your way. Don't let anyone put added responsibilities on you. ✪✪✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Put time aside for love, romance and social adventures. A change is upon you that can alter your position personally and professionally. Don't take too long to decide what you are going to do. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Don't give in to your emotions. If someone puts demands on you, back away. You can do better if you just give yourself more time. Prepare to walk away or set the standard instead of letting others rule your world. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): You've been holding on to something or someone that shouldn't be in your life anymore. It's time to take on new challenges, meet new people and change the way you do things at home. There are other alternatives available. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Enjoy the moment and plan to get out with friends or your lover. So much depends on how you react to the people around you. Let your personality be what grabs attention and not how much you are willing to spend. ✪✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Set your own standard and stick to it, even if your emotions are telling you to go against what you know you should do. It will be a no-win situation if you allow anyone to ride on your coattails or push you to take on responsibilities that don't belong to you. ✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Make some plans with a friend, relative or neighbor. The one-on-one talks you have will broaden your scope regarding the possibilities that may exist in the future. Evaluate your situation and consider your options. ✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Don't be too quick to say no. Consider whatever is being offered. Good things can come from the discussions you have if you are honest as well as creative about what you can bring to the table. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): You'll have to answer plenty of questions if you have fallen short on the promises you've made in the past. Someone is likely to force you to make a decision that is uncompromising, given the current economic situation. Use your ingenuity. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): You have plenty to think about before you make a final decision that can alter your bankbook and your lifestyle. Keep your emotions out of the equation. Be responsible and resourceful. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): You must recognize an offer being made if you want to get ahead. It may be a challenge but, in the end, you will not only learn from the experience but it will lead to other, life-changing opportunities. ✪✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20)*: Protect your interests as well as your heart and your assets. Expect someone to make a sudden and unexpected attempt to push you into a fast and untimely decision. Do not take the bait or give in to ultimatums. ✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are sensitive, emotional and creative. You care about status and relationships and you rely on your resourcefulness to help you get what you want.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun,* ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

					3	7	5	6
	7				6			1
					8			4
					1	9	3	2
2	9	8	3					
6			7					
8			9				2	
3	5	1	8					

Difficulty Level ★★★ 9/24

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

1	5	4	9	2	7	8	6	3
6	8	9	1	3	4	5	7	2
3	2	7	5	6	8	1	9	4
5	4	3	7	9	1	6	2	8
7	6	1	4	8	2	9	3	5
2	9	8	6	5	3	7	4	1
8	1	6	2	4	9	3	5	7
9	3	2	8	7	5	4	1	6
4	7	5	3	1	6	2	8	9

Difficulty Level ★★★ 9/23

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

LIBRARY OVERDUE FEES **Solution: 8 letters**

G	G	R	C	S	T	V	M	P	M	A	T	S	C	E
T	N	N	E	A	E	A	A	I	W	E	E	K	L	Y
R	I	I	I	C	N	T	L	L	S	L	E	U	O	E
O	L	D	D	K	A	C	A	L	U	S	D	N	S	L
P	D	I	E	N	C	L	E	R	Y	E	I	S	I	I
E	N	A	M	R	A	E	L	L	H	T	U	N	N	F
R	A	S	T	I	C	T	H	C	C	T	I	R	G	C
B	H	E	E	E	T	T	S	C	A	L	R	B	A	A
A	S	W	L	M	N	E	E	T	P	I	E	C	E	R
L	S	O	A	O	R	R	S	M	U	N	C	A	P	D
A	A	I	M	V	Y	N	T	L	I	O	O	(E)	R	E
N	M	D	I	E	E	L	A	S	U	T	R	(T)	E	L
C	A	C	L	O	S	T	I	N	O	I	D	(A)	N	L
E	E	S	K	O	O	B	T	A	O	C	S	(L)	E	I
R	N	O	I	T	A	N	O	D	D	E	S	K	W	B

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Account, Amass, Balance, Billed, Books, Cancel, Card, Checking, Clear, Closing, Cost, Credit, Daily, Date, Debit, Desk, Donation, File, Fine, Handling, Late, Letter, Limit, Loan, Lost, Missing, Monthly, Notice, Outstanding, Owes, Period, Rates, Recall, Receipt, Records, Renew, Report, Rules, Schedule, Service, Stamp, Status, Tally, Time, Total, Value, Wave, Weekly

Yesterday s Answer: Monks

SALE: The topics of "Wonderword for Kids" appeal to younger fans but the puzzle difficulty matches what you've come to expect from Wonderword. For a limited time, the book is on sale for just $3 each (U.S. funds only) payable to Universal Press Syndicate. Include $2 postage for the first book, order 3, $1 each additional book. Send to Wonderword, 1130 Walnut St., Kansas City, Mo. 64105 or call toll-free, 1-800-642-6480.

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Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

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ADS (7DAYS)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
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• 5-Liner	**$35**
• 3-Liner with picture	**$45**
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Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:
- *Saipan Tribune:* All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

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All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

Ex-NY Giant Burress gets 2 years in gun case

NEW YORK (AP)—Former Super Bowl hero Plaxico Burress apologized to his family and tearfully kissed his wife and young son goodbye Tuesday before he was led away to prison to begin serving a two-year sentence on a weapons charge.

Burress, at the time a star receiver with the New York Giants, was at the Latin Quarter nightclub in Manhattan last November when a gun tucked into his waistband slipped down his leg and fired, wounding him in the thigh.

The gun was not licensed in New York or in New Jersey, where Burress lived. His license to carry a concealed weapon in Florida had expired in May 2008.

He had been indicted on two counts of weapons possession and one count of reckless endangerment, but under a plea deal reached Aug. 20, Burress agreed to a single, lesser charge of attempted criminal possession of a weapon.

No charges were filed against Giants linebacker Antonio Pierce, who was with Burress the night of the incident, drove him to the hospital and took the gun to his home in New Jersey before arranging to have it returned to Burress.

AP

Former Super Bowl star Plaxico Burress, center, appears before judge Michael Melkonian for his sentencing at Manhattan criminal court, Tuesday, Sept. 22, 2009, in New York.

Burress arrived in the courtroom Tuesday wearing a jeans and a long-sleeved T-shirt, a stark contrast to the dark blue suit he wore last month when he entered his guilty plea.

He was accompanied by his pregnant wife, Tiffany; his almost 3-year-old son, Elijah; his father, grandmother and stepmother.

He told Judge Michael Melkonian before sentencing: "I want to apologize to my family." They did not speak to reporters as they left the courthouse.

With time off for good behavior, Burress likely will serve 20 months. He could be released from prison as early as the spring of 2011 and will be monitored an additional two years after he is freed.

Burress hired a consultant to teach him how to use his time in prison productively.

The Giants released Burress in April, but the 32-year-old told ESPN he hopes to resume his NFL career when he completes his sentence.

"When I get out, I'll be 33, not 43," Burress said in an interview broadcast in August. "I'll still be able to run and catch. I'll still have the God-given ability to snag footballs; that's what I love to do. Of course, I want to play again."

Gil Brandt, an analyst on NFL Sirius Radio and the former head of player personnel for the Dallas Cowboys, said Burress won't be too old for a comeback when he's released from prison.

"First of all, Plaxico is a guy who keeps himself in pretty good shape," Brandt said. "Lots of times guys get heavy in the off-season. He is not a guy who has done that."

Burress is suspended by the NFL, but the league said he will be reinstated after he completes his prison sentence.

The star receiver played collegiately for Michigan State and in 2000 was drafted by the Pittsburgh Steelers, where he built a reputation as one of the league's top deep threats. He signed as a free agent with the Giants before the 2005 season.

Burress' big moment with the Giants came when he caught the winning touchdown over the previously undefeated New England Patriots in the final minute of the 2008 Super Bowl.

His attorney, Benjamin Brafman, said previously that Burress was thinking of his family—including his wife and young son, Elijah—in taking the plea, but Brafman questioned the fairness of the recommended prison sentence.

"This was not an intentional criminal act," Brafman said the day of the plea. "In my judgment, a two-year prison sentence is a very severe punishment."

Before sentencing Tuesday, Brafman called Burress "a fundamentally decent man."

"This is a very real tragic case in many, many ways," Brafman said.

NFL reminds players about its drug-testing program

NFL players have been warned the league's drug-testing program is still in effect despite commissioner Roger Goodell's ruling to delay suspending several players who tested positive for a banned substance.

In a joint memo issued in the past two weeks by Goodell and NFL Players Association executive director DeMaurice Smith, players were reminded in bold print that they will continue to be tested as in the past and "a positive test will generally result in a suspension."

The memo was obtained by The Associated Press on Tuesday. It was issued after a federal appeals court blocked the league from suspending Minnesota Vikings defensive linemen Pat Williams and Kevin Williams for four games each after they tested positive for a banned substance contained in the weight-loss supplement StarCaps.

The court ruling led to the NFL's decision to allow New Orleans defensive ends Charles Grant and Will Smith, who had also been issued four-game suspensions, to continue playing. Both Saints players tested positive after using StarCaps.

The memo specifically notes that "weight-loss supplements such as StarCaps are particularly risky," and adds, "you should not take them." Players are also reminded that they are responsible for what they consume, and that they should refer questions to Dr. John Lombardo, who oversees the NFL's steroids policy.

Both Williamses, who are not related, have acknowledged taking StarCaps, an over-the-counter supplement. It contains the diuretic bumetanide, which is banned by the NFL because it can mask the presence of steroids.

The Williamses sued the NFL in Minnesota state court, asking a judge to block the suspensions. They argued the NFL's testing violated Minnesota workplace laws.

Attorneys for the NFL argue it should be allowed to enforce its anti-doping policy because it was a product of the league's collective bargaining agreement with the union and governed by federal labor law. ***(AP)***

NFL BRIEFS

Chargers sign DT Alfonso Boone

SAN DIEGO (AP)—The San Diego Chargers have signed defensive tackle Alfonso Boone to help fill the void left when Jamal Williams was lost for the season with a triceps injury. Boone spent the last two seasons with the AFC West rival Kansas City Chiefs. He was released in the final roster cutdown. Boone also played for the Bears from 2000 to 2006 and appeared in the Super Bowl following the 2006 season. While with the Bears, he played for defensive coordinator Ron Rivera, who holds the same job with San Diego. The Chargers released defensive end Andre Coleman to make room on the roster. Williams, noted for his run-stuffing prowess, was hurt in the opener against Oakland and was put on injured reserve on Saturday.

Calif. city approves NFL stadium plan settlement

WALNUT, Calif. (AP)—The city of Walnut has approved a legal settlement in exchange for dropping objections to a proposed NFL stadium development in a neighboring Southern California city. City Council members voted 3-1 to approve the settlement during a closed session Tuesday night. Councilman Joaquin Lim says he voted no but he and the council are bound by a confidentiality agreement not to disclose details of the settlement until the parties release a joint statement on Thursday. Walnut sued Industry over plans for an $800 million venue in March, claiming the neighboring city approved the project without sufficiently reviewing its environmental impact. Industry City Manager Kevin Radecki did not return a call for comment.

Henin aims for Wimbledon title in return

BRUSSELS (AP)—Justine Henin is seeking the elusive Wimbledon title in her return to the WTA Tour.

It's the only Grand Slam the former top-ranked player hasn't won. And it loomed large in her decision to end a one-year retirement from the sport.

"It is a dream of mine," Henin said Tuesday. "I want to work to get it. I make it a priority."

Barely a week after compatriot Kim Clijsters capped her comeback from retirement with a second U.S. Open title, Henin announced her return live on Belgian TV.

Henin was one game away from victory in the Wimbledon semifinals in 2007 before losing to Marion Bartoli. Henin's coach Carlos Rodriguez, who also will make a comeback, believes she can take the grass-court title.

"I can see her winning it," Rodriguez told RTL-TVI network. "This fourth title, it is one of the reasons for coming back."

Henin's announcement capped an about-face from her "definitive decision" to retire last year, followed in recent weeks by "no comment," until a smiling admission Tuesday that she truly missed the game too much.

"A flame I thought was extinguished forever suddenly lit up again," Henin said on TV.

Her plans include exhibition tournaments in Charleroi, Belgium, and Dubai, to hone her skills ahead of a competitive return at the Australian Open.

"Justine is one of the great champions in the history of women's tennis, and we, along with millions of her fans around the globe, are thrilled," WTA Tour chairman Stacey Allaster said in a statement. "Justine is that rare athlete who decided to step away from the game at the height of her powers, and no doubt she will be a force to be reckoned with from the get go."

As Clijsters has proved, breaking into the top tier is realistic. Clijsters won the U.S. Open in her third tournament since returning from a 2 1/2-year retirement to get married and have a baby.

"Subconsciously, it might have had an impact," Henin said of Clijsters' success. "But it certainly was not the most important reason."

Henin retired in May 2008, initially rejecting any thought of a comeback with a determination that marked her play in a decade-long career that produced seven Grand Slam titles. She said she was tired of nagging injuries and living in a bubble while chasing titles.

During her retirement, Henin became a UNICEF goodwill ambassador and focused on vaccinations for children in the Congo, Cambodia and Denmark.

But she said she couldn't fight a competitive spirit that still burns.

"Adrenaline is part of my life, my existence. It is in my character," she said.

Like Clijsters, the 27-year-old Henin is still in her prime and has been able to rest her body. She stepped away from the game after a string of early tournament exits just ahead of the French Open, a tournament she's won four times.

Henin was the first female player to retire at No. 1, having earned nearly $20 million in prize money and holding the top ranking for all but seven weeks since Nov. 13, 2006 until her retirement.

"The last 15 months, I've been able to recharge the batteries, emotionally as well," Henin said.

On Tuesday, Henin was back hitting balls, using the constant repetition of strokes to regain perfection under pressure.

"The toughest moment is right now. It is to create the foundation," she said.

Henin said she wants to play at least until the 2012 London Olympics, when she will be 30. She won gold in singles at the 2004 Athens Games.

Yankees clinch playoff berth, beat Angels

ANAHEIM, California (AP)—Brett Gardner scored the tiebreaking run on Alex Rodriguez's sacrifice fly in the ninth as the New York Yankees celebrated clinching their 14th playoff appearance in 15 seasons Tuesday night with a 6-5 victory over the Los Angeles Angels.

Rodriguez homered and drove in three runs before Mariano Rivera earned his 41st save for the Yankees, who were guaranteed a return to the postseason about 55 minutes before the last out in Anaheim when Oakland beat the Texas Rangers 9-1.

The Yankees blew a 5-0 lead before rallying to win for the first time in five games this season at Angel Stadium.

A's 9, Rangers 1

At Oakland, California, Kurt Suzuki and Daric Barton drove in two runs apiece while Trevor Cahill won his fourth straight decision with a 9-1 victory over Texas.

The Rangers' loss kept them 6 1/2 games behind Boston in the AL Wild card and it clinched a postseason berth for the Yankees.

Suzuki hit a two-run double and scored on Barton's RBI single during a five-run seventh when the A's broke it open to win for the 10th time in 12 games.

Mariners 4, Rays 3

At St. Petersburg, Florida, Jose Lopez hit a tiebreaking home run in the eighth inning as Seattle beat Tampa Bay, eliminating the defending AL champions from the postseason.

Ichiro Suzuki had a two-run homer for the Mariners, who ended Tampa Bay's four-game winning streak.

Lopez gave Seattle a 4-3 lead with his 25th homer off Dan Wheeler (4-5) with one out in the eighth. Miguel Batista (7-4) struck out three over two perfect innings before Mark Lowe pitched the ninth for his third save.

Tigers 3, Indians 1

At Cleveland, Edwin Jackson pitched seven shutout innings as first-place Detroit remained 2 1/2 games in front of Minnesota in the AL Central.

The Indians lost their ninth straight.

In losing nine of 13, the Tigers let a season-high, seven-game lead on Sept. 6 slip to two over the Twins last weekend.

Twins 8, White Sox 6

At Chicago, Michael Cuddyer hit a go-ahead home run in the sixth and Matt Tolbert homered in the same inning for Minnesota.

The Twins won for the eighth time in nine games despite blowing two leads.

Orlando Cabrera hit a two-run homer and Jason Kubel added a solo shot for the Twins. Cuddyer finished 3 for 4 and a triple short of the cycle, while Joe Mauer had an RBI double.

Royals 5, Red Sox 1

At Kansas City, Zack Greinke held Boston to two hits in six scoreless innings.

Greinke (15-8) is 3-0 with an 0.26 ERA in his past five starts, allowing 18 hits and one earned run in 35 innings. With the stretch, Greinke has lowered his major league-leading ERA to 2.08. He became the first Royal to win at least 15 games in a season since Paul Byrd won 17 in 2002.

Byrd (1-2) was the losing pitcher.

Blue Jays 6, Orioles 5, 11 innings

At Toronto, Aaron Hill doubled home the winning run in the bottom of the 11th inning as Toronto handed Baltimore its sixth straight loss.

Hill, who hit a solo home run,

AP

New York Yankees' Brett Gardner, right, slides into home plate to score the go-ahead run on Alex Rodriguez's sacrifice fly against the Los Angeles Angels' Jeff Mathis in the ninth inning of a baseball game in Anaheim, Calif., Tuesday, Sept. 22, 2009.

reached 100 RBIs for the first time in his career.

Facing right-hander Dennis Sarfate (0-1), the seventh Baltimore pitcher of the game, Jose Bautista walked to lead off the 11th. Hill followed with a double to right-center and

Cardinals 11, Astros 2

At Houston, Joel Pineiro allowed five hits in seven innings and Yadier Molina hit a two-run homer as St. Louis inched closer to the NL Central title with an 11-2 win over Houston on Tuesday night.

Colby Rasmus added a solo shot as the Cardinals reduced their magic number for clinching the division to two. Pineiro (15-11) struck out four to win for the first time in four starts.

Rockies 11, Padres 10

At Denver, Colorado hung on to beat San Diego 11-10 despite a four-run ninth-inning rally by the Padres.

Clint Barmes had an inside-the-park homer for the Rockies, who increased their lead in the NL wild-card race to five games over San Francisco and Atlanta.

Diamondbacks 10, Giants 8

At Phoenix, Miguel Montero had three hits and Arizona scored nine runs in the second and third innings to drive Matt Cain out of the game.

Arizona third baseman Mark Reynolds struck out three times to break his own major league record for strikeouts in a season with 206. He had 204 last year.

Dodgers 14, Nationals 2

At Washington, Rafael Furcal drove in four runs and Hiroki Kuroda allowed four hits over six innings for Los Angeles.

The Dodgers' sixth win in seven games lowered their magic number for clinching a postseason berth to three. Los Angeles would win its second straight NL West title for the first time since 1977-78 with any combination of Dodger wins and Colorado losses totaling seven.

Phillies 9, Marlins 3, Game 1
Marlins 3, Phillies 0, Game 2

At Miami, Anibal Sanchez allowed two hits in eight innings to beat Philadelphia for the first time in five career decisions to give Florida a doubleheader split.

Joe Blanton gave up two hits in seven shutout innings to outpitch Marlins ace Josh Johnson in the first game win that reduced to five the Phillies' magic number for clinching the NL East.

Braves 3, Mets 1

At New York, Jair Jurrjens dominated New York again and Yunel Escobar hit a two-run single for Atlanta.

The surging Braves kept up their late playoff charge, though their chances for a postseason spot are slim. Atlanta began the day five games behind Colorado for the NL wild card and eight behind first-place Philadelphia in the NL East.

Cubs 7, Brewers 2

At Milwaukee, Derrek Lee hit his 35th homer and drove in two runs for a career-high 109 total in leading Chicago.

The Cubs won their third straight since suspending Milton Bradley for the season and Lee has continued his sizzling September. He's hitting .408 for the month and is 6 of 8 in this series with two home runs and six RBIs.

Reds 10, Pirates 4

At Pittsburgh, Scott Rolen had three hits and three RBIs, Joey Votto had three doubles and Cincinnati's win meant Pittsburgh clinched its third straight last-place finish in the NL Central.

Pittsburgh (56-93) lost for the 21st time in 24 games, the Pirates' worst stretch since July 13-Aug. 15, 1985.

NBA, players differ on use of replacement refs

NEW YORK (AP)—The NBA's president of basketball operations is confident replacement officials would perform well if they are needed when games begin.

The players aren't so sure.

The NBA and its referees union have failed to reach an agreement on a new contract, so the league will begin training replacements this week. Without a new deal soon, those replacements would be used in games starting Oct. 1.

The officiating was criticized during the last lockout in 1995, but Joel Litvin said Tuesday it will be better this time because the replacements are from the WNBA and NBA Development League and familiar with the NBA program.

"These referees are sort of part of the extended family, which is what makes it different from '95. The vast majority are either D-League referees, they're WNBA referees, they've been to our summer leagues and been trained by our managers," Litvin said. "They've been to our tryouts.

"So unlike in '95, when we were selecting more or less strangers to be replacements, these are people that we know and have been working with for several years, which is a reason why we feel pretty good about how they will perform when they're on the floor."

But Lakers guard Derek Fisher, president of the players' association, said the NBA's referees are the best in the world and joined the union's executive committee in unanimously endorsing a quick resolution, saying not having them on the floor is "unacceptable."

"Players throughout the league are concerned that the use of replacement referees could compromise the integrity of our games," Fisher said in a statement released by the players' association the day before they were scheduled to meet again with league officials for negotiations toward a new collective bargaining agreement.

"Our fans deserve the best product that we can put on the court and that includes having the best referees. Anything less is unacceptable to our union and our members."

However, the league and the referees' union are still far apart on proposals involving changes to the referees' pension and severance packages, as well as a plan to develop younger officials. No further talks are scheduled after they broke down last week.

"Our preference is always to have our regular referees on the floor," Litvin said. "They're the best in the world. So whether that happens remains to be seen."

Training camp opens Thursday, and the league hopes to emerge with 50-60 officials to comprise the replacement roster. Most—perhaps all—will come from within leagues the NBA oversees, a key difference from the heavily criticized officiating during the previous lockout.

Officials from the CBA were used 14 years ago, so the NBA had no control over their training. Plus, early season games were officiated by two-person crews, as opposed to the three that have long been in place.

Litvin also points out that the game has changed from the physical style that ruled in the mid-1990s. That, combined with the advances the league has made in the observation of officials, has Litvin believing the quality of play won't suffer this time.

"We're confident that we will pretty quickly be able to identify any referees who we don't think can perform this job, and likewise we'll pretty quickly identify those that are the stronger ones and we will schedule those referees the most," Litvin said. "So I guess for those reasons, we don't expect—we don't view this as a situation that will be like '95."

Nor is Litvin concerned with using officials from the WNBA, whose athletes are smaller and not as athletic as NBA players. He said many also referee D-League or summer league games and the rules interpretations are similar.

The league has had some success with replacement officials. There are currently 17 on the roster, including recent NBA finals referees Joe Crawford, Danny Crawford and Ken Mauer, who began their careers as replacements during work stoppages.

The NBA also confirmed that Robbie Robinson and Micheal Henderson, former NBA refs who were fired by the league, are among those expected at camp.

League officials have taken great steps to praise the work of their officials, particularly since the betting scandal involving former referee Tim Donaghy that brought their profession under scrutiny, and won't pretend the replacements can truly take their place.

"We're not telling anyone that our referee staff are anything other than the 60 best referees in the world. They still are," Litvin said. "No one here is saying that the replacement referees will be as good as our 60 referees, because they won't be. But they're pretty close to being the next best 60 in the world."

Voyagers dominate D'Pirates Huwa

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

After one of Jonny's IT&E Voyagers' key players fell to the way side, the rest of team regrouped and cleaned the table in their 6-1 victory over the visiting D'Pirates Huwa Tuesday night in the 2009 Saipan Billiards Association Budweiser Open Ball League.

Chester Hamoy racked up the first win over Primo Ferrera before Jojo Talibong lost to Joey Cruz for a 1-1 count.

The Voyagers then took the last three singles matches and the two doubles on the way to regaining the top spot with 30 wins and 12 losses in the Agingan Division.

NTT Docomo Hustlers also scored a huge win over VFW Sentinel, 5-2, but were relegated to second place with a 29-13 win-loss card.

Wild Bill's Shark Attack splashed to their biggest win over Obyan Division leader USSP Watever, 5-2, and moved to third place with 17-25.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Wild Bill's Shark Attack is the featured team of the week in the Saipan Billiards Association Budweiser Open 8-Ball League. Ream members are Ben Norita, Bernard Kileleman, Patrick Taitano, Dan Eugenio, Bill Limes, Vince Mareham, Mike Katsuken, and Nong Detdon.

Watever remained at the helm with 25-17.

Mike Katsuken, Nong Detdon, Patrick Taitano, and Ben Norita all scored wins against their rivals in the singles and Shark Attack paced the match with 4-0.

Bernard Klileleman could not get his game going and succumbed to a 1-2 defeat in the fifth singles match to Quentin Ngirarois then Katsuken and Taitano lost to Nolas Kalinga and Joe Shoking in the first the doubles before Norita and Kileleman wrapped up the match with a 2-0 win over Ken Phillips and Ngirarois.

Another of the night's big wins came courtesy of Jonny's Home Boys, which nailed a 6-1 victory over the Round Perfect Spotters.

The Home Boys are in fourth place in the Agingan Division at 20-22.

USSP Fotten Palau also has a 20-22 mark after escaping with a 4-3 win over D'Pirates 8 Ballers and remained at second spot in the Obyan Division.

Sept. Ace of the Month moved to Sunday

The Fil-Taga Golfers Association will push through with its September Ace of the Month Tournament this Sunday, Sept. 27, after postponing it last week due to the inclement weather.

Club director Nestor "Dodong" Siruelo said they cancelled the scheduled Ace of the Month last Sunday due to heavy rains that flooded the Marianas Country Club, making the golf course virtually unplayable.

This Sunday's rescheduled Ace of the Month will have a show time of 11am with tee-off time scheduled 30 minutes later at 11:30am.

Slots are available for at least 16 players—Class A and B-with division winners getting $75 apiece. Winners of each group can win as much as $75.

Established in 1993, Fil-Taga's tournaments operate under a computer-controlled handicap system that creates parity among players in the A and B Flights.

A Fil-Taga Ace of the Month champion is crowned monthly. Regular tournaments are scheduled once a month, normally every third Sunday. Green fees are in the $35 to $40 price range for most tournaments.

Its 2008-2009 set of officers are led by president Mike Cruz, vice president Jhun Calma, secretary Manny Po, treasurer Arnaldo Guban, and board of directors Fr. Manny Corcuera , Jhun Dela Cruz, Ted Malaran, Gil Faller, Rey Ferraz, Greg De Torres, Rene Batalliones, Nestor Siruelo, and George Sablan. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

CELTICS

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fourth place.

Rounding out the Top 5 is Marvin Rabauliman of the G-Stars. He has 27 in two games for 13.5 clip.

Included in the bottom-half of the Top 10 players are Joe Ada of the Sixers (12.5 ppg., 50 points. in four games.); Eugene Manglona of the Sparks (11.75 ppg., 47 points in four game.), Ryan Ichihara of the Runnin' Rebels (11.67 ppg., 35 points in three games.), Gary Macahito of Hi-Five (11.5 ppg, 35 points in two games), and Tristan Ecalnea (10.75 ppg., 41 points in four games).

Meanwhile, Sparks defeated the Runnin' Rebels, 44-35, last Tuesday Sept. 22 to tighten its grip on second place with a 4-1 win-loss mark.

The Rebels stepped down to fourth place with a 3-2 standing.

Sahj Hossain and Manglona led the team's offense with 12 and 10 points, respectively.

Sparks 44 – Hossain, 12, E. Manglona 10, Faisao 9, Mettao 7, Norita 4, M. Manglona 2.

Runnin' Rebels 35 – J. Iguel 12, Palacios 10, Kiyoshi 7, Ichihara 2, M. Iguel 2, Aughenbauch 2.

Scoring by halves: 18-14, 44-35.

WABOL

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of the the 2009 Pacific Mini Games went to Bina Ramesh of New Caledonia with a throw of 47.66m in the women's javelin. Astrid Waheo of New Caledonia got the silver medal and Teuruerani Tanepau of French Polynesia settled for the bronze.

Cook Islands' Tereapii Tapoki, for her part, made her home islands proud by picking up a bronze medal in the women's discus.

Aside from golf and athletics, other sports held yesterday were lawn bowls, netball, and tennis.

Day 1 of competition preceded Monday's (Tuesday in the CNMI) opening ceremony held at the Bank of Cook Islands National Stadium.

According to Northern Marianas Amateur Sports Association president and CNMI delegation chef de mission Michael A. White the opening ceremony went very well.

"It was carried live on local TV and around the Pacific on satellite to those countries which chose to pick up the feed. Too bad our local TV station chose not to. The CNMI athletes, got lots of face time. The ceremony was very colorful, featuring the beautiful singing and traditional dancing of the Cook Islands," he said.

White added that the CNMI's two-man delegation are settling nicely in the athletes village and preparing for their events, and in Wabol's case keeping his focus for the first round of golf competition.

"The weather has stayed good, and Joshua and Jess are comfortable in the village. We continue to be impressed with the warm friendliness and hospitality of the people of the Cook Islands. Competition started today. Jess teed off about an hour ago, with a prodigious drive down the first fairway which brought applause from the crowd. He is in a foursome with golfers from Samoa, Tahiti, and Wallis and Futuna. Joshua got in some bicycle practice this morning," he said.

Highlights of the opening saw the flag of Nauru carried proudly into the stadium by 15-year-old weightlifter Elson Brecherfield, easily the youngest athlete of the Mini Games.

Nauru was welcomed into the stadium during the march by the Nukuroa Te Maeva Nui team from Mitiaro.

Miss South Pacific Vanessa Marsh also gave grace and beauty into the proceeding when she marched along with athletes from Niue. Marsh won the title of Miss South Pacific nearly a year ago in American Samoa.

Samoa, meanwhile, has the largest contingent for the Mini Games. According to www.sportingpulse.com, youth and experience make up the team which is poised to be a threat in just about every sporting event that they will compete in.

"The youngsters who carried the Team Samoa banner into the stadium demonstrated the cultural diversity of the Samoan people who are here to demonstrate their solidarity as a people as they vie to claim as many of the golds and other medals as they can during these games," the website reported.

At the last Mini Games in Palau in 2005, New Caledonia won 112 medals, 56 of them were gold. Fiji was second with 59 medals, 23 of them gold, and Papua New Guinea was third with 35 medals, 16 of them gold.

REZNE

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Wong's will to race.

"Rezne will travel to California with the team when the University of Hawaii swims against U.C. Berkley on Oct. 9 and Stanford University on Oct. 10. Rezne still has a lot to learn, but we are in the process of working on some of his weaknesses. We have been working on his stroke technique, and getting him stronger. He is a pleasure to work with and is quickly becoming a team favorite due to his work ethic and pleasant demeanor. He really is a great kid...," said Wales.

Wong, for his part, is ecstatic about being a part of the team and appreciates the help the Rainbow Warriors' coaching staff has done to make him a better swimmer.

"On the swimming side, I think the team is awesome. We have one of the fastest NCAA Division 1 swimming teams in the U.S. The UH Rainbow Warriors/Wahine have been getting faster the past few years. I am glad that the team is not only fast, but also very friendly and accepting. It is usually hard to find a swim team that makes an effort to stay connected as a team, both on and off the pool. I love this team. Also, we have an excellent coaching staff. I am very excited to learn as much as possible from our five coaches with different backgrounds. I can't wait to race!" he said.

Back to college life, Wong said it is definitely a big leap from high school and that he is savoring every minute of it.

"College life is amazing. You are given so much freedom, and there is a lot of room for failure, or success, whichever you choose. This is when discipline, self-control, and commitment that you developed in your younger years come into play. There are a lot of adjustments, but it is worth the effort. Life is great for me right now. I try to give my best at class, in the pool, and anything that I am involved with. I pray that God will strengthen me to the finish, and I know that it is only through Him that I will succeed," he said.

WILD BILL'S

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more goals scored in the early rounds.

Guam Hyundai Family settled for third place by pulling out a 2-0 victory over Korea-A in the their semifinal match.

Korea-A had the most points in a game in a 5-1 triumph over Inter but their 1-3 loss and 2-2 draw to MP United proved costly and barely missed a chance for a crack at the title.

The complete results of the games are the following in order of play:

MP United def. Korea-A (3-1), Korea-B vs. Mantansa (0-0), Wild Bill's vs. Tinian (1-1), Korea-A def. Inter (5-1), Guam def. Korea-B (3-1), Wild Bill's def. Tinian (1-0), MP United vs. Inter (2-2), Guam def. Mantansa (2-1), MP United vs. Korea-A (2-2) Wild Bill's def. Guam (2-0), Guam def. Korea-A (2-0), and MP United vs. Wild Bill's (3-2).

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
x-New York	96	56	.632	–
Boston	89	61	.593	6
Tampa Bay	77	74	.510	18 1/2
Toronto	68	83	.450	27 1/2
Baltimore	60	91	.397	35 1/2

Central Division

Detroit	80	70	.533	–
Minnesota	78	73	.517	2 1/2
Chicago	73	79	.480	8
Kansas City	63	88	.417	17 1/2
Cleveland	61	89	.407	19

West Division

Los Angeles	90	61	.596	–
Texas	82	68	.547	7 1/2
Seattle	79	72	.523	11
Oakland	72	79	.477	18

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Philadelphia	88	62	.587	–
Atlanta	81	70	.536	7 1/2
Florida	81	71	.533	8
New York	65	87	.428	24
Washington	51	99	.340	37

Central Division

St. Louis	89	63	.586	–
Chicago	78	72	.520	10
Milwaukee	74	77	.490	14 1/2
Cincinnati	70	81	.464	18 1/2
Houston	70	81	.464	18 1/2
Pittsburgh	56	93	.376	31 1/2

West Division

Los Angeles	91	60	.603	–
Colorado	86	65	.570	5
San Francisco	81	69	.540	9 1/2
San Diego	69	83	.454	22 1/2
Arizona	65	86	.430	26

Yesterday's Games

Philadelphia 9, Florida 3, 1st game
Cincinnati 10, Pittsburgh 4
L.A. Dodgers 14, Washington 2
Atlanta 3, N.Y. Mets 1
Florida 3, Philadelphia 0, 2nd game
Chicago Cubs 7, Milwaukee 2
St. Louis 11, Houston 2
Colorado 11, San Diego 10
Detroit 3, Cleveland 1
Toronto 6, Baltimore 5, 11 innings
Seattle 4, Tampa Bay 3
Kansas City 5, Boston 1
Minnesota 8, Chicago White Sox 6
N.Y. Yankees 6, L.A. Angels 5
Oakland 9, Texas 1

x-clinched playoff berth

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOCAL SCORES

ROTARY STANDINGS

Sonics	4	0
G-Stars	2	0
Sparks	4	1
Sixers	3	1
Runnin' Rebels	3	2
670 Rollers 2	1	2
Rollers 1	2	3
Saints	1	3
Ol'Aces	1	3
670 Rollers 3	0	2
Hi-5 0	2	
Celtics	0	3

SBA STANDINGS

Agingan Division

Jonny's IT&E Voyagers	30	12
Utopia NTT Docomo Hustlers	29	13
D'Pirates Huwa	24	18
Jonny's Home Boys	20	22
Round Perfect Spotters	19	23

Obyan Division

USSP Watever	25	17
USSP Fotten Palau	20	22
Wild Bills Shark Attack	17	25
D'Pirates 8 Ballers	15	27
VFW Sentinel	11	31

Tsunami Saipan Buffet Party

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Tsunami Saipan Swimming Center swimmers perform dry land training at Marianas Resort and Spa following their season-opening lunch buffet party.

A total of 62 swimmers attended the kick-off for the 2009-2010 season of the club and all of them took part in the dry land training.

Beginner class swimmers Beatrice Dumlao, left, Julie Conner smile for the camera.

Tsunami Saipan's Sensyu and Jyun-Sensyu class didn't get any breaks from head coach Hiro Kimura in the first day of training.

With the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool still out of commission, Tsunami Saipan had to make do with the Marianas Resort and Spa pool.

Tsunami Saipan's Beginner Class was able to practice some kicking techniques.

Ken Staal, left, and Kensuke Kimura during a light moment with head coach Hiro Kimura and younger swimmers of the club.

Tsunami Saipan swimmers literally had a ball during the land training sessions.

Tsunami Saipan swimmers also went circuit training after buffet lunch.

It was not all serious training Saturday, as kids also had time to play.

Some of Tsunami Saipan's senior swimmers pose for the camera.

Shin Kimura and Kai Staal got to play coach for a day.

Tsunami Saipan's developmental class pose with club president Stan Good and senior swimmer Marystar Welch.

Voyagers dominate D'Pirates Huwa

After one of Jonny's IT&E Voyagers' key players fell to the way side, the rest of team regrouped and cleaned the table in their 6-1 victory over the visiting D'Pirates Huwa.

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

Ex-NY Giant Burress gets 2 years in gun case

Former Super Bowl hero Plaxico Burress apologized to his family and tearfully kissed his wife and young son goodbye Tuesday before he was led away to prison to begin serving a two-year sentence on a weapons charge.

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Wabol shoots a 77 as competition starts

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

Jess Wabol shot a 5-over par 77 at the start of the golf competition yesterday in the 2009 Pacific Mini Games at Rarotonga Golf Club in the Cook Islands.

The former Oleai Elementary School principal's score was good for 20th best in the first round and was 11 strokes behind Day 1 leader Vikrant Chandra of powerhouse Fiji.

Chandra's 6-under 66 was followed by the identical 2-under par 70s of Jean Max-Ho of New Caledonia and Patrick Fepuleai of Samoa.

In team play, host Cook Islands (215), Niue (228), Fiji (211), New Caledonia (218) led the way.

According to www.sportingpulse.com, play progressed slow and steady as players found their feet in ideal conditions on a course that has not hosted this caliber of players for a while.

Meanwhile, the first gold medal

See WABOL on Page 26

WWW.SPORTINGPULSE.COM

Team Samoa easily has the biggest contingent in this year's quadrennial event. They are seen here marching in Monday's (Tuesday in the CNMI) opening ceremony at the Bank of Cook Islands National Stadium.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Jess Wabol, seen here in a file photo, fired a 5-over par 77 in Day 1 of the golf competition in the 2009 Pacific Mini Games in Rarotonga, Cook Islands.

Rezne to travel with UH-Manoa team

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

Rezne Wong is adjusting quite well to college life at the University of Hawaii-Manoa campus and has made waves in the swimming pool as well.

"School is great! The science classes here are top-notch and I feel that I am at the right school for my major (Marine Biology). I am taking Political Science 110, Oceanography 201, Religion 150, and Chemistry 161," said the Marianas High School alumnus in a recent e-mail to the *Saipan Tribune*.

Wong is also about to add another feather to his cap after UH-Manoa swimming head coach, Victor F. Wales, decided to include him to the Rainbow Warriors' traveling team.

"Rezne is doing extremely well, and working very hard. Since he had gotten here he has been training 20 hours a week, which is a big change, but he is handling it well. Rezne has been a pleasant surprise for me, and he has changed my mind about redshirting him this year. I have decided to put him on the travel team so he can gain some experience this year, as we our swimming two of the best teams in the country," he said an e-mail to the *Saipan Tribune*.

What caught the eye of Wales is Wong's Top 10 overall finish at the Duke "Ocean Mile" race last Aug. 25 and his great showing in the Waikiki Roughwater Swim on Labor Day. Wales said the two races really showed

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Wong

Wild Bill's wins KFAS Cup via 2-2 draw against MP United

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

Wild Bill's defeated MP United, 3-1, on a penalty kick by Jason Schroeder in the finals to win the championship of the 2009 Korean Sports Football Cup last Sunday at the Oleai Sports Complex.

Two of Wild Bill's key players, Glenn Smith and Schroeder, also took home individual awards.

Smith was adjudged most valuable player of the tournament, while Schroeder had the most goals with five, including one of the two Wild Bill's scores in the final game.

A total of eight teams joined the one-day tournament with Korea-A, MP United, and Inter in Group A, Korea-B, Mantansa, and Guam in Group B; and Wild Bill and Tinian in Group C.

Wild Bill's drew with Tinian in their first game, 1-1, then pulled out a 1-0 squeaker in their second encounter and advanced to the second round where it defeated Guam Hyundai Family, 2-0, for an outright finals berth.

MP United opened its campaign with a 3-1 win over Korea-A then drew with Inter, 2-2, and earned the right for a slot into the second round.

MP United needed only a draw with Korea-A, 2-2, in their second round action to take the second ticket to the championship round by virtue of

See WILD BILL'S on Page 26

Celtics' Taguchi leads Rotary scoring

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

Celtics gunner Tim Taguchi took an early lead in individual scoring in the Saipan Rotary Youth Basketball League by averaging 17.67 points per game.

Taguchi fired 53 points after only three games so far this season (27 against the Sixers, 19 against Runnin' Rebels, and 12 against the Sparks).

But his team is still trying to come up with a good showing after succumbing to huge losses against their first three opponents this year, including a 47-66 loss to the Sixers in their opening match on Aug. 25; 40-43 to the Runnin' Rebels on Sept. 3; and 27-47 to the Sparks on Sept. 8.

Available statistics, however, do not include the results of the previous three playing dates.

Bryan Ajoste of the Sonics canned in the most points among the Top 10 scoring leaders with 63 points in four games.

Ajoste averaged of 15.75 points per game for a strong second place showing.

But more importantly, the Sonics remain the only undefeated team so far this season with four wins.

Richard Wang of the Rollers averaged 15 points per game and is in third spot. He made 30 after the team's two assignments.

Josh Kiyoshi of the Runnin' Rebels scored 55 in four outings for an average of 13.75 points per game, good for

See CELTICS on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

The Sixers' Ernest Duenas pulls up for a jumper against a Celtics defender during their game in this file photo in Rotary caging at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.